

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On 10th January, at No. 2, East Terrace, Kowloon, the wife of H. D. NORONHA, of twins (girls)

MARRIAGES.

On 28th December, at Jhansi, India, HARRY SEYMOUR HOYLE, to CONSTANCE MARY, elder daughter of F. NEVILL MAY, of Shanghai.

On 10th January, at the Wesleyan Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. W. Bridie, CHARLES MAKEHAM, to RACHEL RADCLIFFE.

On 10th January, at Hongkong, ERNST TRUSCH, I.M.C. Lappa, to BARBARA, second daughter of FRANCIS MORRISON, Aberdeen, Scotland.

DEATHS.

On 31st December, at Shanghai, JOHN WILLIAM GRAHAM, of Granada, West Indies, aged 54 years.

On 2nd January, at Shanghai, FLORENCE E. PAGE, aged 28 years.

On 3rd January, at Shanghai, J. M. FLOWERS, of Durham, North Carolina, aged 25 years.

On 4th January, at Shanghai, JOHAN JACOB INOKAT, aged 62 years.

On 5th January, at Shanghai, GEORGE CARR FULLERTON, aged 34 years.

On 5th January, at Hankow, HEINRICH QUIS-TOFF, of the Ostasiatische Handels Gesellschaft (A.G.), aged 29 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 9th December arrived, per the s.s. *Ernest Simons*, on the 12th inst., and the English Mail of the 16th December is expected to arrive, per the s.s. *Simla*, some time to-day.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Nagasaki Hotel was re-opened on December 28th.

Three Portuguese are in custody at Shanghai, charged with wounding American sailors with razors.

Bad colds are common in Hongkong just now, the weather-man's quick changes being responsible.

The Dalai Lama, supposed to have been in Peking since the fall of Lhasa, is now reported in St. Petersburg.

Subscriptions were voluntarily collected by Japanese in Japan for the relatives of the murdered Hull fishermen.

The Shanghai Taotai is said to have gone to the Japanese Consul and congratulated him on the capture of Port Arthur.

A North China journal has just apologised for reporting that a marriage service had been performed by a clergyman who "died some time ago."

H. Collins, the man under arrest at Yokohama as a spy in Russian pay, was found guilty at the preliminary examination, and committed for trial.

There was a big children's party at the British Consulate at Amoy in Christmas week and another at the Club. All foreign children received gifts.

Shanghai wines and other luxuries are meeting a fair market in Manchuria, the Russian soldiers being large purchasers. They also buy Japanese goods.

The Philippines authorities have ordered the deportation of an Amoy Chinaman who had failed to register himself. This is said to be the first case of the kind.

The usual tribute of the 'Nine White' has reached Peking from one of the Mongolian princes. It consists of 1 white camel and 8 white Mongolian horses.

The Korean Minister at Peking, who has been ordered home, wires that he cannot go until the Government sends him his overdue salary that he may pay his bills.

Bangkok has been visited by plague for the first time in history. It broke out among Indians, of whom several have died. The patients were at once isolated, precautionary measures were taken, and rats were hunted down.

The *Peking Times* states that on the chief eunuch Li Lien-ying's 60th birthday some three weeks ago hundreds of princes and high officials flocked to his residence to pay tribute to the all powerful one, and at the time of the Empress Dowager's birthday as well as his own, it is estimated he must have received millions of taels "cumsha."

A shop collapsed at Kau Yee Fong, just behind No. 5 Police Station, at 10.30 o'clock on January 11th. The building, which is Government property, was being pulled down when the collapse occurred. Two workmen were injured, one seriously. Both were taken to the Government Civil Hospital. Others were entombed, but were excavated, before the Police, under Chief Inspector Baker, arrived on the scene.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—The control of the stock of the Canton-Hankow Railway is again in American hands, the Belgian interests having been bought out.

American journalism is always refreshing. The last *Manila Cablenews* to hand, dated January 7th, has four and a half inches of caption to a two-inch telegram. The headings read:—"Back!" Says White Czar.—Balled up Fleet Ordered to Return up the Creek.—Japanese Squadron Will Stay in Watchful Waters Till It Is Certain Slav Ships Distant.—The healing of the item giving the news of General Stoessel's surrender was "Red Ball Is Over Arthur."

Another gallant attempt to rescue a coolie from drowning was made by Dr. Rome of the s.s. *Cranley* in the harbour on January 10th. The Doctor was conversing with two other medical men when an uproar was heard amongst the coolies on board. On going to the companion way Dr. Rome noticed a coolie struggling in the water. Quickly divesting himself of his clothes he leaped from the ship to his assistance. He was successful in getting the coolie on board, but all the efforts of the three medics to induce respiration were unavailing.

A Wusieh report has it that nearly three weeks ago a large mob attacked and burned down the residence of a member of the gentry of that city and a newly-established "new learning" school, as a protest against the collection of an additional tax on rice produced in that district. By the interposition of the military the riot was suppressed and three of the ringleaders captured. These men were sent to Soochow for trial and the sentence on two of them has been death by strangulation. Banishment to Chinese Turkestan is the fate of the third culprit.

On January 9th an elderly man named James Douglas, who during a lengthy residence in Hongkong has had a somewhat chequered career, fell downstairs at his home in Lee Yuen Street. He was picked up in an unconscious condition and taken to his rooms, the Chinese supposing that he was under the influence of drink. As he had not recovered consciousness by the morning, however, he was taken to the Government Civil Hospital, where Dr. Bell instantly perceived that the man was suffering from fracture of the skull and was not likely to live many hours. As a matter of fact, he died in five hours, and was buried on Jan. 11.

It is reported that Captain Zerbonsen, of the German steamer *Willehad*, which took to Yokohama the Japanese refugees from Russia, has had the fourth order of the Rising Sun conferred on him in recognition of the valuable services rendered by him. He is a Lieutenant on the retired list of the German navy and was recently presented to the Emperor by Count von Arco Valley. On Boxing night a dinner was given at the Grand Hotel, Yokohama, in honour of the captain and the officers of the *Willehad*, Governor Suifu presiding. In addition to the guests of the evening, Count von Arco Valley and Consul-General Sybing, amongst others, were also present. In making a presentation of a silver vase to Capt. Zerbonsen, the Governor of Kanagawa thanked the captain and his officers and wished them to carry away the assurance of his sincerest respect.

SHIPPING AND INSURANCE.

(Daily Press, 9th January.)

When a journal of the status and dignity of the London *Times* makes use of such an adjective as "rotten," we may safely conclude that the thing so described is in a very bad condition indeed. It is the condition of the marine insurance market at Home which the commercial supplement of the *Times* states to be "rotten," and its correspondent declares the use of the word to be fully justified in that connection at the end of the year just over. Worse still, he writes hopelessly of any immediate prospect of improvement. The depression in the shipping trade is severe, he reports, and values have seriously declined. "There is no margin on earnings to allow shipowners to pay adequate insurance premiums, and they are obliged to put forward their vessels on the depreciated values instead of on the much higher values of two or three years ago." In view of the Board of Trade returns, showing still a very respectable volume of export and import trades, we might be tempted to ascribe these pessimistic reports to the tendency of those in a business to exaggerate its defects and to belittle its advantages; but it is explained that the margins of profit have been low, especially in the case of heavy freight, and underwriters have been continually under pressure to undertake greater risks without a corresponding increase of premium. The secret is that there are far too many at the game. The supply of insurance facilities, we are told, is greater than the demand. "The London market can cover more than a million sterling on a first-class risk, and everybody likes first-class risks. But most of these risks do not exceed £100,000, and rarely reach £500,000. On nearly every good risk placed in London some underwriters have to go short, and their inevitable willingness to cut rates in order to get a share in business results in a continuous and progressive reduction, until a point is reached which is well below the margin of safety." That point, says our contemporary, has now been reached in some important classes of marine insurance. How different all this to the state of things on the China coast. Every local corporation engaged in this business is doing remarkably well. That jealousy to which allusion has been made, prompting a toning down of good reports and the emphasising of bad, prevents us from mentioning particular cases, or giving figures to prove how vastly happier are our local underwriters than their metropolitan prototypes. Rates are, however, admittedly very high, a fact which affords some explanation of the way in which Chinese shipowners are conducting their business. Many of the Chinese steamers are not insured at all; and so long as their luck remains good, and no losses come to punish their temerity, they are enabled to compete with foreign shippers on terms distinctly unfavourable to the latter. The natural assumption would be that the shipping depression at Home, which helped to establish the insurance rates on such a more favourable basis for the shippers, would be cured or partly cured by the depression it had so conveyed to the related business; but the expert idea appears to be that under such conditions a sound insurance protection cannot exist, and that without it the trade cannot recover. It is obvious that while the underwriters are obtaining the smallest of profits, or none at all, they will be the more tempted to dispute their liabilities when claims are made, and their legal advisers hold out any hope of success. The greatest failures

have been in insurances of steamers for twelve months at fixed premiums—"time risks," which showed an unprecedented "rot." Our authority mentions "the experience of one of the north-eastern mutual insurance clubs for the year to February, 1904, which shows that the tramp steamers entered in the club cost for insurance £9 6s. per cent. on a valuation of £10 a ton. Tramp steamers of about the same class are now being written in London on the 1905 account at £8 or less per cent. on a valuation of £8 a ton. Here is a reduction in premium and value together of no less than 31 per cent. This is in fact quite a moderate example, and it would be easy to give instances of reductions of nearly 50 per cent. Underwriters grumble and groan daily; they resent the way in which business properly applicable to 1905 is being pushed forward now in order to secure the advantages for shipowners of a "rotten" market, but they are between the millstones of economic forces." The only business in which the insurance people have distinctly scored has been the war risks, for captures and accidents were, thanks to the Japanese navy, not so numerous as to seriously reduce the handsome returns drawn from scared shippers.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

(Daily Press, 10th January.)

Our correspondent "W. D." whose letter appeared in yesterday's paper, holds, in common with a great many humane folk, the opinion that capital punishment is a relic of barbarism. He says it ought to be superseded "by something more humane, more philosophic, more just." Some definition becomes necessary before we can appreciate the value of his argument. We must know what he means by humanity, whether he perceives it as a sentiment of pity for an individual in trouble, or as a love of humanity in the aggregate. We must see why and where he discovers the unphilosophic side of capital punishment, and we must consider whether his conception of justice is or is not a true one. He adopts the Socratic method of transmitting his opinion that capital punishment is an act of revenge, and probably will not be satisfied with a negative answer to his question. Nevertheless, his opinion that the object of punishing a murderer is revenge is quite untenable. A vital condition attached to an individual's permission to associate with his fellows is that he must respect the sanctity of their lives. Without such an understanding, man's gregarious instinct could not be gratified. He would have to live, as it were, with his back to the tree, and regard everyone coming into view as a possible enemy. In the earlier communities, a killer was regarded as a common danger, and suppressed as such, for the good of the community. The simple philosophy of those days was that a dead killer would kill no more. In later times, the view of capital punishment has been that it deters, not only the one put out of mischief, but all others beholding his fate. Thus, if the right humane feeling be that entertained for humanity at large, and if only two potential murderers be deterred by the fate of one, an execution is not only a humane punishment, but is ultimately an economiser of lives. This, it seems to us, is also sufficiently philosophic to dispose of our correspondent's second objection. As to the justice of it, there can be no question, if we set aside "W. D.'s" word "revenge" as improper. Capital punishment is an act of avenging, not of revenging. The distinction is that one is an act of justice, the other a private reprisal which may or may

not be just. The pious CRABB says that the act of avenging, though attended with the infliction of pain, is oftentimes an act of humanity, and always an act of justice. The principle of equality enters into all definitions of justice. A just punishment is one that fits the crime. Without considering the possibility that many men would rather die than undergo penal servitude, we have to consider if twenty years of liberty taken away is a fair price for a whole life cut off. In the case which has given rise to this discussion, one human creature was robbed of probably fifty or sixty years of existence. So much for the justice of it.

Our correspondent is, we admit, in the fashion when he attributes all crime to ignorance, disease, or insanity; but we cannot help thinking it a dangerous doctrine to preach. There is a temptation to grave laxity in these pampered days when we are taught to disguise offences with euphemistic names, when a thief is no longer a thief, but a kleptomaniac; and when a brutal murderer is said to be suffering from a painful attack of homicidal mania. Tolerance is a fine thing, but we should not be expected to tolerate evil. Every young rascal with sufficient brains or education to think of it, when his failure to curb his appetite or passion becomes patent, and incurs the censure of those about him, promptly pleads heredity or environment. The drunkard is offended by his true designation. He has, poor fellow, had the misfortune to inherit dipsomaniacal tendencies. There is, no doubt, something in it; but we no longer know where we stand, as we once did. Once upon a time,

"He who took what wasn't his'n

When he was cotedched was took to prison."

Now, the correct thing is to seek for a cause of his naughtiness among what "W. D." calls "the thousand and one impacts of environment," to prate of his necessities, to blame Government for omitting to provide him with a sinecure that would have kept him out of temptation; and finally to confine him temporarily as a first or second class misdemeanant. Sometimes he has the impudence to write a book about his experiences, and incidentally to criticise prison administration, while a silly, novelty-hungry society, which has lost its sense of proportion, foolishly applauds. The humane, or those who seem to claim a monopoly of the humane feelings, have done their best to abolish the birch rod and the "cat." By-and-bye, when they have abolished all punishment, we shall perhaps revert to old-fashioned ways, if we be not all murdered in our beds meanwhile. It is very pretty to say, as "W. D." does, that "the seed of human nature is good." If we were agreed as to what is meant by that, we should probably concur; but there used to be a well-understood phrase having reference to a certain outcrop of human nature known as the "old Adam," and this thing needs repressing still. Experience has not shown that the new-fangled, pseudo-scientific diagnosis of crime has helped to repress it. It is rather hard that we, as well as His Excellency the Governor, should be understood to lack the milk of human kindness simply because we do not permit our natural sentiments to blind us to the heinousness of certain kinds of behaviour; but it is useless to complain. Humane people are prone to judge severely, it seems. Since, however, "W. D." has called our attention to the simile of the gardener and the tree, as "particularly true in its bearing upon the present case," we do not feel any the less justified in the painful view we felt it our

duty to take. He reminds us that "the development of the plant or tree depends upon what the master gardeners, and their assistants, make of it." We have heard that when branches grow crookedly, the master gardeners, or their assistants, resort to pruning. They lop them off. That, as "W. D." has innocently indicated, is particularly true in its bearing upon the question of capital punishment.

THE WAR.

(Daily Press, 11th January.)

How far General STOESEL was justified in prolonging the defence of Port Arthur after the Russian defeat at Liaoyang, capped by General KUROPATKIN's failure to recover his lost ground at the Sha Ho, may well remain a moot question for future historians to decide. What concerns us now is what is likely to be the immediate effect of his eventual surrender. The Japanese are, as their conduct throughout the war has shown, a chivalrous people, and have never shown any disposition to judge at too low a rate the prowess of their enemy. Although they were ready to acknowledge the bravery of the defence, they have not in the terms finally granted shown any disposition to rate at any extraordinary value the personal valour of their opponents, and General STOESEL has had to share the fortunes of his fellow officers. There are, however, a set of noisy talkers ever anxious to settle the affairs of the entire world, who have made themselves conspicuous in the present instance by their fussy attempts to step in between the belligerents with their parrot-like cry of "Stop the war!" and have been urging on the principal Powers of the world to separate by bringing to bear on both combatants what they are pleased to call peaceful pressure. Hitherto neither side has been willing to listen to these unwelcome suggestions, but with a perseverance worthy of a better cause these would-be busy-bodies have been announcing that with the fall of the fortress it was their intention to renew their possibly well-meant, but certainly ill-timed suggestions. War, it is acknowledged on all sides, is an evil to be avoided if possible at almost any sacrifice; but is this everlasting preaching the best way to bring it about? We trow not. Rather we would say it is the very best way to inflame those passions which have rendered the war inevitable; and the after effects of a patched up peace, instead of bridging about harmony, are far more likely to result in an intensification of the original differences. Russia on the one hand is by no means assured that she is beaten. Some of the sagest councillors on the Russian side openly advised at the beginning the immediate abandonment of Port Arthur, and her concentration of her forces at Harbin and Vladivostock. This is actually the position at the moment. Except for the weakening by the last year's campaign of the fleet then in Eastern waters, neither Vladivostock nor Harbin has felt the pressure of the war. A large Russian fleet, larger in fact than the fleet with which she commenced the war, is now closely approaching Eastern waters, and of the success of this fleet Russia feels, or affects to feel, assured. Japan has to meet it a fleet certainly much damaged during the war; she acknowledges the loss before Port Arthur of two of her most powerful battleships, and it cannot be that the remainder, from the hard work they have encountered during the past summer, are as well equipped as when they started the war. On the other hand, the Japanese are confident in the superiority of their officers and crews, who have un-

doubtedly proved themselves hitherto more able and enterprising than their opponents, and have learnt much from the experience of the past. With the further advance of the Russian fleet the Japanese will be able to hamper their coal supply, and if they succeed in doing this effectively, the other ships will apparently be at their mercy. A position like this, where each side feels confident of victory, is not conducive to friendly councils.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that the present condition of Russia, wherein her rulers have to face an imminent revolution, might be supposed to have some effect on the party in power and incline it to peaceful measures; but it has yet to be proved that that party has at all waked up to the gravity of the position, and even so, there are signs that it affects to see in a continuance of the war the best hope for the policy to which it has committed itself, of crushing out the revolutionary spirit. Such things are not contrary to experience, even in Russia. The latter end of the reign of CATHERINE was marked by a very similar spirit, and was met by encroachments abroad, when a policy of concession to the discontent at home would have seemed a wiser recourse than expending the force of the empire in distant expeditions. CATHERINE, however, succeeded in enlisting the sympathies of her subjects, and the danger passed off. CATHERINE's arms were, however, successful, while up to this the arms of Russia in the present contest have been from first to last unsuccessful. The tide, however, may of course turn, and in such an event the people at large may rally round the throne. Should Russia retire on the other hand, and acknowledge herself defeated, there is no doubt that the present discontent would be seriously aggravated. Russia therefore has, in the eyes of her present leaders at least, every inducement to persevere. This is probably the reason of the apparently aimless insults she has recently been offering to England. It is true that she has had momentarily to submit to an outside adjudication of the North Sea outrage, but there are already signs that she intends to repudiate her own bargain should the issue prove unfavourable; she has already gained time, and has made use of it to get her fleet into the Indian Ocean, and this was probably her sole reason for having so far yielded to dictation. She has, however, no intention of abandoning her policy of bluff: even the last mail brings news of her persistence in pretending to attack Afghanistan. It might have been supposed that between a war in Manchuria, needing all her resources, and a threatened revolution at home, the hands of Russia were fully occupied, without laying herself open to a further quarrel in Turkestan, already not too well content with Russian rule. Desperate diseases call, however, for desperate remedies, and she gladly faces the situation, secure apparently in the belief that England, at least, will never fight. Whether England will at the last moment, to save her honour, adopt warlike measures is at best a doubtful point. Russia was equally confident that Japan would never dare to face her, and rushed blindly into a serious conflict which has already taxed her powers to the uttermost. All these things go to prove that Russia is prepared to carry out her game to the bitter end. With such a resolve, and the issue being in the eyes of her present rulers one of obliteration or victory, it is vain to expect that she will lend any ear to proposals of peace except on the assurance of the entire and unqualified submission of Japan. For the very same reason Japan is in no mood to

withdraw from her present attitude; submission would, in effect, be with Japan extinction, and however much she may desire to ingratiate herself with her good friends on the Continent, she feels that she would not be justified in yielding at the cost of all that makes a nation great and respected to their blandishments.

The fall of Port Arthur will, however, open up a little more of Manchuria to foreign trade, and with this slight amelioration we must make up our minds to feel happy, at least for the present.

PROVING CHINA SOLVENT.

(Daily Press 12th January.)

The publications of the statistics department of the Chinese Imperial Customs are usually as lucid as they are interesting, and in his "Inquiry into the Commercial Liabilities and Assets of China in International Trade," which publication we have just received, Mr. H. B. MORSE, the statistical secretary, has succeeded in maintaining the standard of these familiar "yellow backs." Beginning with what is called the "adverse balance" of trade, derived by comparing import returns with exports, some simple calculations based on a ten years' table given show that China's exports have increased Hk. Tls. 91,515,080, or more than one-third of the present value. Imports have increased Hk. Tls. 170,884,227, or considerably more than fifty per cent. The fact that imports are now a third greater in value than the exports is considered to be an anomaly, and the inquiry is directed to explaining it. When imports overbalance exports, the layman is minded to assume that either the means or the credit of the nation are or is good; but statistical secretaries are made uneasy by anything that appears anomalous. In China's case there appears to be no doubt as to her means. We are told that the Government "has not allowed any hesitation in demonstrating its ability to make the periodic payments when due." There is too much weight sometimes attached to mere figures, which, according to the way they are presented, may show results either good or ill, as we have seen in the rival statistics published in connection with the tariff agitation at Home. In this inquiry the position is further weakened by the necessarily incomplete returns dealing with the movements of treasure. It is pointed out that foreign enclaves, whether ceded or leased, must be taken into account by such an examination into the condition of commercial China, owing to the interdependence of trade and the banks. "The proceeds of sale of a consignment of cotton yarn for consumption in China may be applied to cash a bill drawn for a foreign navy, whether the expenditure of the latter is to be made at Kiaochow or at Chefoo," and a Canton trade transaction involves a corresponding banking transaction at Hongkong. As there are no available statistics of the movement of treasure in and out of Hongkong, to cover the financing of South China's share of international exchange, it is evident that no such inquiry can be productive of results as complete as are to be desired. Doubt may also be cast upon the trustworthiness of some of the statistics acquired, as there is no authority, under extra-territorial conditions, to compel accurate returns. All these points are fully admitted, and the present report is presented as "the nearest to the truth that can be attained." The nett result of it is that China, with an estimated liability of Hk. Tls. 423,734,993, and estimated assets Hk. Tls. 424,751,694, is, commercially

speaking, paying her way. One of the items set under liabilities is that of nett profits of foreigners remitted to home countries, estimated at sixteen millions of Haikwan taels. If this be considered excessive, we are asked to remember that no amount has been included to represent the nett profits earned in China for banks having their head offices elsewhere. Coming to assets, exports and imports *via* the land frontiers are not recorded, but it is estimated that the exports preponderate in value by four million taels. The most interesting item is the amount set down as remitted or brought to China by Chinese emigrants, *viz.* seventy-three millions. This estimate is believed to represent the minimum. Twenty-seven millions are set down to expenditure on railway and mining development, and it is pointed out that with regard to railway development, China's liability is all in the future—even interest being now paid out of capital—and that the money so spent must be regarded as a commercial asset of the Empire. Foreign travellers are supposed to spend six millions in China, but that, of course, must be mere guesswork. Reverting to the item already mentioned, that of foreigners' profits sent Home, we quote in extenso the following interesting details:—

Among the elements disturbing any calculation are the following: All Foreigners are not thrifty as are the Chinese; many invest their savings in China; much that would otherwise be saving is sent for the support of children and dependent relatives; it happens sometimes that widows and their families remain in China; while some men regularly invest at home, others as regularly invest in China; etc. On the other hand, it is generally true that Foreigners return home, and, sooner or later, take their savings with them. In the absence of precise information we must, however, assume a basis of calculation, and that least open to hostile criticism will be the following:—(a.) Most Foreigners invest their monetary savings, while in China, in real estate here, or in local enterprises—shares or debentures. (b.) Against the savings of those who do not do so, but regularly remit capital home, may be put as offset the holdings of Chinese in Treaty port real estate and in the shares of local companies. (c.) Though local investments may be held out here temporarily, sooner or later they are remitted either as annual income or as realised capital of those who have left China. (d.) On these grounds the sum total of:—(i.) Net rentals from real estate in the various ports, and (ii.) Dividends of all local companies (including the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank) may be taken as fairly representing the remitted savings of Foreigners in China. Here, as under other headings, we must take Hongkong as essentially a part of commercial China. On this basis we find:—Shanghai nett rentals, Hk. Tls. 4,500,000; Hongkong, Hk. Tls. 2,500,000; Other ports, Hk. Tls. 2,000,000; Dividends of joint stock companies and interest on debentures (Shanghai Stock Exchange), Hk. Tls. 7,000,000; Total, Hk. Tls. 16,000,000.

In these details is not included the profit earned in China by banks other than the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; nor is allowance made for losses on investments in, e.g., cotton mills.

We vouch for the untruth of this story. "How fashion you make catch so plenty fire-extinguishers?" asked a local Chinaman in his friend's godown. "Hai-yah! B'long awli. So fashion my make catch twen-fi' per cent. off my premium; and maskee! All piecee have got petroleum inside."

OPIUM.

(Daily Press, 13th December.)

We assume that the allusion in the extract that follows, taken from an article in our Shanghai contemporary, entitled "An Evening Stroll through a Canton Street," is to the *Daily Press*.—"I strolled into two opium dens. A leader in a representative paper, a few weeks since, indicated that there is a great divergence of opinion on what is called the 'opium question.' It seems to me, however, that the revelations of these low, damp, dirty, dark dens would convince most people that only evil can come to those who frequent them. Some smokers are yellow and emaciated. Many appear to be in good health. One old fellow, nearly seventy years of age, confessed that he had smoked for forty years, and admitted that he spent \$3 per mensem. Yet he looked hale and vigorous. At the beginning of the conversation, many contended that the pipe stimulates the energies. A little quiet talk, however, will elicit the confession that the whole thing is bad, and that, in the end, physical deterioration generally follows addiction thereto." This is interesting, but if it be intended as a sort of rejoinder to our recent observations on the methods of the International Reform Bureau, is not appropriate. We had nothing to say on that occasion in defence of the use of opium, as, academically, we might have had; nor did we attempt to deny that "only evil can come to those who frequent" low opium dens. We never had any doubt that in China opium was responsible for a great deal of misery, just as "Drink" is elsewhere. We would even admit, if pressed for an opinion, that tobacco smoking has also wrought much mischief. That, however, would be a different thing to admitting that legislative bodies should everywhere be guided by self-styled "reform bureaux," and abolish all that such people have discovered to be capable of abuse. We did not consider that this particular lot of reformers showed either good taste or sensible policy in requesting the British Premier to ask his Government to cancel the "dishonourable treaty," and with that phrase in mind, our comments were directed to show that the dishonourable character of that treaty with China had not been demonstrated. It is not necessary nowadays to advance arguments to the effect that sedatives and stimulants are desirable "evils." The "reformaniacs" would not be convinced; and the almost spontaneous discovery and use of such things, by all peoples, and in all times, however much it might be emphasised, does not appear to have occurred to any of them as evidence of their necessity and inevitability. The correspondent of our contemporary can scarcely be considered a satisfactory advocate by the reformers, after his honest but indiscreet admission that a septuagenarian, who had smoked opium for forty years, "looked hale and vigorous." Imagine Sir WILFRID LAWSON admitting that a man of seventy, after drinking for forty years, could possibly be hale and vigorous. No, in setting about reforming, at the wrong end of the stick, the obvious procedure, and the procedure usually followed, is to emphasise the telling points, and to ignore all evidence that may happen to be unfavourable. This admission from Canton is the first direct evidence brought to our notice that opium smoking could be habitually indulged in without harmful results, and whereas before we had no doubt that it was a bad habit we now entertain some doubt. We attach no value whatever to those "little quiet talks," in which the opium smoker confesses that

"the whole thing is bad, and that, in the end, physical deterioration generally follows addiction thereto." The Oriental has absorbed the sense of St. PAUL's advice to be all things to all men. His notion of politeness is to please the foreign interrogator by saying what he thinks he is expected to say, and heartily agreeing with what he conceives to be the foreigner's opinions. It has been noticed how frequently, when a foreigner experimentally drops a hint that he is a Buddhist, or a Fire Worshipper, or something of the kind, the Chinese or Japanese "Christian" drops his hypocritical professions of grace. A Japanese referring to some of his national converts spoke of them as "untamed rhinoceroses, simulating tamed, as the easiest way of getting things good for their rhinoceros-flesh." Chinese who, in opium dens, tell foreigners that opium is a bad thing are probably about as sincere as the man who, at the hotel bar, proposes "Down with the Drink."

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

January, 9th.

When I wrote last week of the heroic rescue in the harbour by Dr. Forster, the Assistant Medical Officer of the Port, and suggested that the reward of the Royal Humane Society's Medal was richly deserved, I overlooked the necessity there was for the holding of a coroner's inquest in consequence of the death of one of the occupants of the boat. At the inquest the circumstances of the rescue of the two Chinese children were placed on record in the evidence; the jury very properly took notice of the act of gallantry in a rider to their verdict, and the Coroner promised that the attention of the Government should be called to it.

I notice in the *Times* that Sir Frank Swettenham, the late Governor of Singapore, is still asking for information as to how the Crown Colonies are to be treated if the electorate at Home decide to abandon the existing fiscal practice. He points out that there are British Crown Colonies which are absolutely free from all trade restrictions, and that they produce practically nothing. He instances Hongkong which, in value of trade, is the fifth largest port in the world, and Singapore, the seventh or eighth. "Will these and other Crown Colonies," he asks, "be compelled to have a tariff, and charge all their imports, thus raising the price of living and working for every class and trade and nationality in the colony, with nothing to set against it except an increase of revenue which will not enable the Administration to reduce taxation in other directions, unless it be to lower the price of opium and spirits for the benefit of opium smokers and spirit drinkers?" The Singapore Chamber of Commerce, Sir Frank Swettenham adds, is so impressed with the necessity for maintaining the absolute freedom of its port that it is now petitioning the Government to abandon a great harbour improvement scheme, lest, at some remote and unforeseen date, any form of harbour dues should be imposed on shipping. Mr. Chamberlain, I suppose, is the only man who can be looked to, at present, for an answer to Sir Frank Swettenham's questions, but no answer is yet forthcoming from any quarter. If there is to be a conference on the fiscal question, it is certainly very desirable that the Crown Colonies should be represented. It is a matter in which the Chamber of Commerce or the local branch of the China Association might do something in the way of seeking information and letting it be known that Hongkong has a local interest in the question which is not so insignificant as the average elector at home may be disposed to think.

Some of the Police Court reporters have of late been agitating for a desk. The authorities have actually attempted to oblige them, and now, in a dim corner of the court is placed a desk with sitting accommodation for two. I understand the desk is built on the model of a

rocking-horse. With a writer at each end, it keeps up a continual rocking motion. The reformer is so proud of the result of his petition that he cannot bear to have the thing sneered at, so in order to disarm the critics, he sits on one end of his hobby horse, to stop its prancings.

Your comments on the course of the projected western hill tramway are, Sir, I am sure, penned from a desire that the natural beauties of the Public Gardens should not be impaired. From an æsthetic point of view, I am afraid the Gardens will suffer to some extent, but I see no reason why any of the pines should be sacrificed. They can all be moved, and it ought to be possible for the work to be so managed as to leave no permanent scar or disfigurement. This is the business of the Director of Public Works and the head of Gardens departments. Probably the latter is wholly indifferent to the matter. The man who could deliberately deface the natural beauties of the island, created by the industry and foresight of his predecessor, could doubtless with equanimity see the Botanic Gardens turned into building lots, except perhaps for the consideration that it would be attended with the loss of his occupation, since the deforesting operations must necessarily and automatically cease with the ruin of the plantations.

But, I forgot, there would still be the primeval woods in Little Hongkong Valley. How he would revel in putting the axe to the roots of these venerable and beautiful trees! What a quantity of good firewood they would furnish! What a clearance would be effected; it might even, in the next century perhaps, be possible to lay out the ground in suburban lots, when the whole of the northern face of the island had been covered with houses. In any case there would be the wood, and having created a desert it would be feasible to plant it. Has it not been laid down beyond hope of contradiction that, in order to plant, it is necessary to fell?

Following upon the rumour that the Douglas Steamship Company is contemplating the acquisition of a steamer of larger dimensions than their present ships come the news that the *Harloong* has been sold. Evidently there is something "in the wind," and shareholders are becoming curious to know exactly what it is. Though the Company since it has had to fight against the competition of the subsidised Japanese boats has not paid handsome dividends, the general managers and the consulting committee may be trusted to bear that fact in mind, and their course of action, whatever it may be, is likely to be governed by no other consideration than that of improving the fortunes of the Company.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on the 10th instant. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present the Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Col. W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Dr. F. Clark, Dr. H. Macfarlane, Dr. B. T. Barnett and Mr. T. A. Henner (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

"AN INCONGRUOUS PROVISION."

In November last the Board drew the attention of Government to the language of the proviso to Sub-section 3 of Section 188 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, as in the opinion of the Board it must have been the intention of the Government to permit houses coming within that proviso to be re-erected to a height not exceeding twice the width of the street. The proviso was worded—*if a house of a height of forty-one feet originally were fronting on a twenty-foot street it could only be re-erected to a height of one and a half times the width of the street, i.e. to a height of thirty feet, whereas if such house had originally been of a height of 39 feet 6 inches it could have been re-erected under the terms of the proviso to a height of 39 feet 9 inches, and it seemed difficult to suppose that*

the Legislature could have intended to enact such an incongruous provision. It seemed only reasonable to suppose that the Legislature intended to lay down in the proviso the general principle that houses falling under the proviso should be allowed to be re-erected to a height not exceeding twice the width of the street. It was suggested by the Board that it might be expedient that the provisions of any amending Ordinance to be passed to remedy the above should be made retrospective so as to date from the coming into force of Ordinance 1 of 1903.

The reply was thus:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
23rd December, 1904.

SIR,—With reference to your letter No. 375 of the 7th ultimo, I am directed to inform you that the interpretation placed by Government on the proviso to sub section 3 of section 188 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903 is as follows:—

1. A house fronting such a street as described may in any case be re-erected to a height equal to one and a half times the width of the street;
2. Should the existing house exceed in height one and a half times the width of the street but not exceed in height double the width of the street it may be re-erected to the same height as at present;
3. Should the existing house exceed in height double the width of the street, it may be re-erected only to a height equal to double the width of the street.

(Sd) F. H. MAY (Colonial Secretary).

PROPOSED CEMETERIES FOR KOWLOON.
Dr. F. Clark in a minute wrote—In view of the growing pressure on the available space in the Protestant Cemetery at the Happy Valley, I have the honour to recommend, for the consideration of the Board, that a site should be reserved and laid out as a Protestant Cemetery at Kowloon.

The Hon. Mr. Brewin minuted—I understand the Roman Catholics wish to apply for a Cemetery as well. A site which can be divided among all religions should be selected.

Mr. H. E. Pollock minuted—What site is suggested?

Mr. E. A. Hewett minuted—Agree. A most suitable site came to my notice. Foothills should be set aside for a cemetery to be divided, as the Happy Valley is, between all denominations requiring regular burial ground.

The PRESIDENT—I move that a Sub-Committee be appointed to select a suitable site.

This was agreed to, the following being the Sub-Committee:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson (the President), the Hon. Mr. P. N. H. Jones (the Vice-President), and Mr. A. Rumjahn.

CLEANSING THE COLONY.

Dr. B. T. Barnett made this report—The following is a return of the general cleansing carried out in Victoria, Kowloon, Kowloon City and Shaikwan under the supervision of the Board's officers during the fortnight ending December 10th, 1904:—Houses, 2,953; floors, 7,259; empty floors, 202 (cleaned by the Board's coolies); cartloads of rubbish removed by the Board's coolies, 188½.

"A VERY REASONABLE REQUEST."

Messrs. Palmer and Turner, architects and surveyors, applied (under section 180a) for a modification of the requirements of the Ordinance regarding the provision of open space in the rear of Chinese houses in First Street, standing on the rear part of Inland Lot 677, which are about to be rebuilt. At the back of these houses at present there is an open lane ten feet wide. Under section 180 a scavenging lane six feet wide is required. They asked that the difference between the required width, six feet, and the actual width ten feet (*viz.* two feet for each corner), may be calculated as part of the open space required, although such open space will not be enclosed within the yard walls but remain as part of the ten foot lane.

Dr. F. Clark minuted—I recommend that this be sanctioned on condition that the gates are removed from both ends of the lane and that no further obstructions whatever be erected in or over the lane.

The Hon. Mr. Brewin minuted—The yard walls will be removed or replaced by railings?

Mr. A. Rumjahn minuted—A very reasonable request.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT the application was granted on the condition that the yard walls be only eight feet high.

OPEN SPACE.

Mr. E. M. Hazeland applied that the Board allow the lane at the rear of Nos. 77 and 79, Temple Street, Yaumati, to count towards the open area as required by section 180 of the Ordinance. Also that exemption from the provision of a scavenging lane be granted, as on open lane of twelve feet in width had been provided, half by the owner of the property mentioned and half by the owners of houses fronting Station Street South.

The application was granted.

A BUILDING MISTAKE.

Mr. E. M. Hazeland also applied that the Board allow that portion of the lane which his client had provided at the rear of Nos. 7 and 8, A Chung's Lane, as a scavenging lane, to count towards open space as required by section 180. The houses had recently been rebuilt and completed, and by a mistake the building was not set out according to the plan and the area of the open space at the rear was, thus reduced, making the area less than one-third of the roofed over area of the buildings. They were two-storey buildings, well ventilated and lighted and No. 8 was a corner house.

Dr. F. Clark minuted—I have inspected these houses and am prepared to recommend that they be accepted on the condition that the scavenging land be given up to Government after it has been opened into Ng Kwai Fong to enable the scavenging coolies to have access to it.

The Hon. P. N. H. Jones minuted—Approve M.O.H.'s recommendation.

Mr. E. A. Hewett minuted—I think the Board should have further details. If we pass this how are we to know that "mistakes" may not be made on purpose so as to evade the terms of the Act? Is there not any responsible person whose duty it is to see buildings are constructed according to the approved plan? If so, how is it the houses were completed before the mistake was discovered?

The PRESIDENT read out the Hon. Mr. P. N. H. Jones's reply, the latter being absent—No. There is no such person. It would be absurd to expect the officers of the Building Authorities to measure up and practically act as overseers during construction for the architects (who know their liabilities for deviations from deposited plans) in addition to their proper work of inspection for bad work and materials. When the occupation certificate of a building is asked for then the Building Authority has the work actually carried out and measured and compared with the plans, with the result as in this case that any deviations discovered are either put right or exemption is asked for from the proper authority—in this case the Sanitary Board. The suggestion here made by the M.O.H. would be a gain for the Government and should be followed.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT—When was the mistake discovered?

The PRESIDENT—When the building was complete.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT—It seems to me that this is encouraging intentional mistakes. I think the architect should suffer—the application should be refused. Though I have a very high opinion of most Hongkong land owners I think a few of them are capable of taking advantage of us in this way.

The PRESIDENT—If that (refuse) were done the Government would lose. We would not get the scavenging lane.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT—It is only by an accident the Government is going to gain like this? I think a severe penalty should be inflicted—even make them rebuild the house if necessary.

Dr. F. CLARK—It is a matter of 90 or 100 square feet of lane they are going to give up to the Government without getting anything for it.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT—A good penalty?

The PRESIDENT—Yes.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT—That is good; I believe in cases of this sort in having the "pound of flesh."

The application was granted.

THE PROVISIONS RE WINDOW OPENING.

Messrs. Leigh and Orange asked (under clause 4 of section 175 of Public Health and Buildings Ordinance No. 1 of 1903) for exemption from provisions in respect of a window (ground floor) opening out into the rear of No. 99, Des Voeux Road Central, and No. 47, Connaught Road Central. These two houses

adjoin Jubilee Street, and are therefore corner houses with large openings in both streets and additional windows in Jubilee Street.

Dr. F. Clark minuted—These are both corner houses. The reason for the application is that a staircase is to be put across the window, partly obstructing it. I see no objection to the application being granted in this case.

Messrs. H. E. Pollock and A. Rumjahn minuted—Grant.

The application was granted.

"OCCUPANTS ARE WELL TO DO."

Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs requested the Board's permission to put up wooden partitions on the first floor of No. 2, Lok Hing Lane.

Dr. B. T. Barnett minuted—I think these partitions might be allowed. They will hardly interfere with the lighting and ventilation as this is a corner house. The houses in the side lane on the opposite side are as high as this floor only. The occupants are well to do.

Mr. A. Rumjahn minuted—Grant.

The application was granted.

PUBLIC URINALS.

It was reported that two public urinals in front of Marine Lots 54 and 224 respectively have been completed.

PLAGUE DURING 1904.

A diagram showing the relation between rat and human plague during fifty weeks of 1904 was laid on the table. The curves showed approximate equality.

THE POWERS OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

Yee Shun Yuen, having received a notice from the Board, applied for permission to retain the glass screen enclosing one side of the verandah of the second floor of No. 179, Des Voeux Road Central. "The floor," he said, "is used as an office and the glass screen is for protection against the inclemency of the weather."

In respect of this Dr. Francis Clark wrote to the Crown Solicitor—Would you mind telling me how you would interpret section 139 of Ordinance 1 of 1903? Can the Sanitary Board grant permission for the erection of partitions in verandahs over Crown land, or allow such to be enclosed and used as bath rooms, etc., or does the permission allowed by this section relate solely to the letting down of blinds in such verandahs and balconies between sunset and sunrise? The latter is the preferable reading, as it is more in accordance with previous legislation on the subject. The exception as regards blinds was interpolated at the instance of His Excellency Sir Henry Blake, but it was never intended that the wording should carry power to allow all the other structures mentioned in the earlier part of the section.

The Crown Solicitor replied—I think the permission relates solely to the letting down of blinds at night time.

The PRESIDENT—This has not been circulated. It is important on account of the ruling of the Crown Solicitor. Re-circulate.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' DUTIES.

Applications re the sale and preparation of food were treated. With respect to an application to register No. 1, Stone Nullah Lane, as a bake-house, Inspector J. A. Lyon reported that the premises were not suitable for such a purpose.

Mr. E. A. Hewett minuted—The Sanitary Board should be informed of the manner for showing the premises are unsuitable if they are asked to refuse any application.

Mr. A. Rumjahn minuted—I agree with Mr. Hewett. Sanitary Inspectors' duties are to report on the condition of the premises as per form attached. Has Dr. Barnett visited the premises?

Mr. H. E. Pollock minuted—I agree with Mr. Hewett.

The PRESIDENT—Dr. Clark has visited the premises.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT—I thought it was merely stated that the premises were unsuitable?

Mr. A. RUMJAHN—What is the objection?

Dr. F. CLARK—The premises are dark and in a plague district.

Mr. A. RUMJAHN—Other houses in that street have licences.

Dr. F. CLARK—Yes, that is one reason why there should not be any more.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT—After Dr. Clark's explanation I beg to move that the application be refused.

Mr. A. RUMJAHN seconded and the motion was carried.

THE QUARRY BAY FISH SUPPLY.

Respecting an application for a licence to sell fish in respect of No. 144, Quarry Bay, the PRESIDENT said—Four premises are licensed to sell fish at Quarry Bay. This is enough.

The application was refused.

A CONTAMINATED WELL.

From the analysis of a sample of water from a well situated at On Wai Lane East (depth, sixteen feet) Mr. A. C. Franklin, Government Analyst, wrote that he was of opinion that the water is so contaminated with impurities as to be unfit for drinking purposes and likely to prove injurious to health.

The Hon. Mr. P. N. H. Jones minuted—Close under supervision and see that filling in is properly consolidated.

The PRESIDENT—I move that we order the well to be closed, for the analysis shows the water to be not much better than sewage.

This motion was seconded and carried.

ADULTERATED MILK.

It was reported that Mr. A. C. Franklin was recently sent a sample of milk for analysis, and found same to be adulterated. The culprit was prosecuted.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Recent analyses of samples from the public water supplies showed the water, in each instance, to be of excellent quality.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The following figures for the whole Colony are given in the mortality statistics for the week ended the 24th December last (death rate per thousand per annum):—British and foreign civil population, 10.3 (week ended the 17th December last, 30.8; week ended 26th Dec. 1903, 36.1); Chinese land population, 13.1 (17th Dec., 15.6; 26th December, 1903, 13.0); Chinese boat population, 19.5 (17th December, 18.5; 26th December, 1903, 12.1); Chinese land and boat together, 14.1.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The Limewashing Return for the fortnight ended the 3rd inst. showed that 2,190 houses were limewashed in the Western District.

RAT RETURN.

The Rat Return for the week ended the 7th inst. showed that 397 rats (including nine plague-infected rats) were caught in Victoria, and 162 (including six infected) at Kowloon.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 7th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT CO. v. NG CHIT MI AND OTHERS.

This was a claim for \$700, being one month's interest on a loan of \$120,000 in mortgage. Mr. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the plaintiff company, and Mr. Tso for the defendants.

Mr. Tso consented to judgment, which was given accordingly; but he asked His Honour to give judgment for the said defendants against a third party—Tun Chi Po, Pun Pui Sheung, Li Tse Shek and U I San (of Canton), and Ng Cheung (of No. 10, Connaught Road, Hongkong). These men were absent, though Mr. Tso proved service of notice on them. His Honour now entered judgment and costs against this third party.

Thursday, 12th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LOO WING KEE v. THE YU HING LUNG FIRM.

In this action the plaintiff (Loo Wing Kee, of Nos. 2 and 4, Kat On Street, Hongkong; cast iron founder) sought to recover \$4,721.42 owing to him by the defendant firm (the Yu Hing Lung, of Nos. 85 and 87, Station Street, Mongkok, Yaumati, boiler and machinery makers).

Mr. N. Ferrers, instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the plaintiff. The defendant was not represented, and was absent from Court.

Mr. N. Ferrers said the action was a very ordinary one—goods sold and delivered. The defendant had told the plaintiff that he could not pay his debts and was leaving the Colony, and advised the plaintiff to take possession of his goods. After an affidavit had been made a writ was issued, the plaintiff entering into possession of the defendant's premises where there were machinery, goods and chattels. A notice that a writ of Foreign Attachment had been issued against the defendant's property was twice advertised in the *Hongkong Government Gazette* and twice in the *Hongkong Daily Press*, and other requirements of the Ordinance had been carried out.

His Lordship—Did you advertise in one of the Chinese papers; both the *Hongkong Daily Press* and *China Mail* have Chinese editions?

Mr. N. Ferrers—No, my Lord, I will proceed to prove the case.

The plaintiff said:—I know the Yu Hing Lung; they were machinists making machines for steamers. I have had business with that firm for several years. I prepared and supplied machinery for them. They owe me an account for machinery supplied, amounting to \$4,791.42. When I used to supply them with goods the account was checked every month, and the book chopped. Yu Hing Lung's business belonged to himself, and he was the manager. He told me he was going to run away, and he has run away—he could not pay his debts and was leaving the Colony. I afterwards applied for a writ to seize his goods—on the 22nd December. I never heard of any other person as being partner or proprietor of this business.

Mr. F. Howell, the head bailiff, said:—On the 24th December a writ of Foreign Attachment was placed in my hands. I proceeded to serve it on one Chan Shing, a man on the defendant's premises, and I took possession on the same date of all the goods, chattels and machinery, acting under the direction of the Registrar-General. Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co. were subsequently served with a writ of garnishee, served on the 24th December by Mr. Leonard.

Mr. N. Ferrers—We want judgment, my Lord, and an order of execution against the property.

His Lordship—I will give you judgment against the defendant firm for the sum of \$4,791.42 with costs. With respect to the remainder of the proceedings you had better first advertise in one or both of the Chinese papers.

Mr. N. Ferrers—That would not be necessary, my Lord.

His Lordship—Execution is to be given against the property of the defendant firm. The defendant may be only manager, though as far as we know he is proprietor, and probably the goods in the shop are his. But put a short advertisement in a Chinese paper. You have judgment, but now I want you to advertise before I grant execution. I shall sit on Monday. If you put in an advertisement to-morrow you can again apply to me then for execution. Put in a short notice saying you have received judgment and that an application will be made at ten o'clock on Monday for execution against these premises.

The Court was adjourned *sine die*.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE LAI WAH FIRM EX PARTE PUN YAN PO.

This was an application for adjudication.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. G. K. H. Brutton's office), appearing for the applicant, said that the creditors had no objection.

His Lordship made out an order, the Official Receiver being appointed trustee.

YEUNG HING BANK EX PARTE MA PAK CHUEN.

Mr. Dixon (of Mr. J. Hastings's office) appeared for the petitioning creditor. He said that Ma Pak Chuen owed his client \$3,000 due on two promissory notes.

A receiving order was granted, the Official Receiver being appointed.

WONG MAN SHUN (WONG TAI WO) EX PARTE

THE DEBTOR.

This was an application for a receiving order. Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appearing for the debtor, said that his client was not able to pay his debts. The liabilities amounted to \$30,000 as against \$15,000 in assets.

His Lordship made out an order, the Official Receiver being appointed.

ODD VOLUMES SOCIETY.

LECTURE ON THE POLITICAL FEDERATION OF THE EMPIRE.

Before a fair number of members of this society at Hongkong on Jan. 11th Mr. E. D. Haskell gave the following lecture on imperial federation. Mr. H. E. Pollock (chairman), in introducing the speaker, said that the subject on which he was going to lecture had come to increasing prominence during the last 30 years. He was sure all would listen with very great interest to the remarks of the lecturer on the subject.

Mr. HASKELL said—The most dominating subject in the politics of the Empire, and one which will become still more so, is I think undoubtedly that of Imperial Federation,—of closer relations between Great Britain and the Colonies, between the various portions of the Empire—in fact the problem of national unity, using the word national in its broadest Imperial sense. That is a question, of so vast and varied a character, involving immense issues, in which many conflicting opinions and interests must be reconciled, that decades must pass before its complete realisation; but one thing is certain—that the trend of events in the Empire, the policy of Britain and the Colonies during the past few years, all tend to show a gradual drawing together—a mutual desire for union—which brings Imperial Federation more into the scope of practical politics, and is leading us step by step towards its realisation. Those who have followed the progress of events cannot fail to have been impressed by the steady growth of Imperialism side by side with the growth and development of the Empire, that spirit which to-day dominates the whole nation—the sentiment which desires the union and consolidation of the Empire.

Dwelling in our minds on the great Empire of which we, in this distant outpost, form a part—on its vast extent, its varied populations of every race, creed, and colour, its enormous wealth and resources, and on those great self-governing Colonies and Dependencies of the Empire, each one a powerful State in itself, and all owing allegiance to one Sovereign—we see what immense possibilities lie to our hands, and how essential it is for the continued existence and permanence of the Empire that its integrity must be maintained,—to which all efforts must be directed. In talking about Imperial Federation, we must regard it, in the first place, as a federation of the Mother Country and the self-governing Colonies—Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa—leaving aside for the moment the question of the Crown Colonies and other Dependencies.

Now, let us regard for a moment the present relations between Great Britain and those Colonies. I believe it was Lord Rosebery who described those relations as loose and indefinable—and why are they so? Because there is not that—what I may call—a material stiffening, a material cohesion, which alone can ensure permanency. The ties of kinship, of loyalty, of common sympathies, which bind the Empire together are the strongest possible, but if to these are added ties of common material interests, we see how much more secure will be the unity of the Empire. If, then, you might ask, if the ties which bind the Empire together are the strongest possible, why all this talk about Imperial Federation, why seek to formulate a scheme for union, when we already have union? It is because, to secure the continuance and permanency of these conditions, by adding to the union of sympathies the union of material interests, and for the defence of those interests. There are some who scoff at the possibility of the disintegration of the Empire. Now, I do not know, and I should not like to think, I am sure, that the disintegration of the Empire would be ever likely to happen; that any of those great self-governing States would

break away from the parent stem, to go its own way. But I do think that while we are able, while the conditions are so favourable, that we should grasp the opportunity, and steadily forge those links of the chain of Empire into an unbreakable bond. By what means, then, is the Federation of the Empire proposed to be accomplished?

I do not think that any definite scheme of federation which can be devised can be put into practice at once, but it is rather by gradual, successive steps that the desired end is to be attained. Any attempt to precipitate a Federal Union, before the conditions are ripe for such an event, would, it is not difficult to conceive, be fraught with national disaster.

In all schemes of federation, it must be a fundamentally recognised principle that the self-governing Colonies should maintain their autonomy. No Colony would tolerate for a moment any restriction of its independence in the management of its local affairs, and no scheme therefore which in any way encroaches upon their liberty in this respect would be regarded favourably by the Colonies. The principle aimed at is the union of the Mother Country and the Colonies in a federation, in which each member will have absolute independence in the administration of its local affairs, but that all questions of Imperial interest, affecting the Empire as a whole, would be relegated to an Imperial Council—a sort of joint administration of Imperial affairs. Now, it is just in the formation, the constitution of such a Council, that the crux of the question lies. No one will deny that the principle of admitting the Colonies to the Councils of the Empire, and letting them take a part in all deliberations of Imperial policy, is a sound one, and what is needed is an organised Council, in which Colonial and Home Statesmen will be brought together and devote their attention to affairs of Imperial interest. The ideal which suggests itself is the creation of an Imperial Council of Parliament in London, for the whole Empire, in fact as well as in name, containing representatives from all parts of the Empire in proportion to their size and population, to administer all affairs of a purely Imperial character. To such a body would be relegated all questions of foreign and commercial policy, and other questions of common interest, such as Defence, and so on, and the control of expenditure for purely Imperial purposes. At the same time, each State will possess absolute self government in local affairs. Such an arrangement would bring together in a common council all those best fitted to advise and deliberate on Imperial affairs, in which representation of all the interests of the Empire would be obtained, and the unity of the Empire would be secured. But as I have said before, and you will readily conceive, it would hardly be expedient to institute such a system all at once. It would necessitate in the first place a complete change in the constitution of Great Britain, a complete revolution in its political system, which would hardly be desirable. Such a Council therefore can only be regarded at the present day as the ultimate goal or object to which all efforts should be directed, and in the meantime the efforts of Statesmen should be to consider the means, the successive steps, by which this end may be attained. It is thought by some that Colonial representation in the present Home Parliament would meet the case, but a little consideration would show that such a plan is open to grave objections. Besides unduly increasing that already cumbersome body, and multiplying its labours, there would be an unequal and disproportionate representation of Home and Colonial interests, and Colonial interests would hardly be served thereby. The periodical conferences of Colonial Statesmen in London has done a great deal towards promoting the consolidation of the Empire, and is a great step towards political unity, by bringing forward the desires and aspirations of the Colonies, and by the interchange of ideas fixing the grounds of a common national policy. But something more substantial, more permanent, is needed, and the plan described by Sir Frederick Pollock in a statement which appeared in the *Times* of some weeks back, has the merit of being a practical one. He proposes the formation of a Committee of the Privy Council for Imperial affairs, including the best possible representatives of Colonial knowledge and opinion. The functions

of this body will be of an advisory character, to deliberate on and discuss all affairs of Imperial concern, and lay before the Cabinet—the responsible Ministers of the Crown—the result of their deliberations, and guide them in shaping their policy.

[The speaker here read extracts from Sir Frederick Pollock's letter on the subject.]

Such a committee should serve a very useful purpose, and I think this plan is one which should meet with general favour, and should be submitted, as is suggested, to the next Colonial Conference for discussion. A question which plays an important part in the subject of Federation is that of Defence. Time will not permit me to touch upon it more than very briefly. There is no doubt that as at present constituted, the burden of defence is very unequally distributed. In fact it is almost entirely borne by the Mother Country. In the last Budget of the United Kingdom we see that the figures for the naval and military expenditure amount to some £60,000,000—a little over. Out of that sum, I believe, if I mistake not, some 35 millions were spent on the navy alone. Now the navy is maintained for the protection of the Empire, of its vast sea-borne commerce, the guarding of its ocean waterways. The Colonies derive the same security from the navy as the United Kingdom. Yet the colonial contributions to the naval expenditure are a mere drop in the ocean. It is not at all disparaging to the Colonies to say so; but here again we see the need of some federal system, where the burden would be borne proportionately by all. There are other services, also of Imperial concern, such as the Consular and Diplomatic services, the maintenance of all of which should be borne by the Empire, and should an Imperial Federal Parliament come into existence, all such votes could be passed by it, and apportioned to each on some basis to be determined beforehand. If we are to share the privileges of Empire, we must be prepared to share some of its burdens, some of its responsibilities. The burden of defence is increasing every year, and pressing more and more heavily on the Mother Country, and is a question capable of a more equitable adjustment.

There is one other question, a most important one,—the commercial union of the Empire, which the Fiscal Policy, for which Mr. Chamberlain is so strenuously labouring, is intended to bring about. That question is still in the controversial stage, and the Colonial Conference proposed by Mr. Balfour to consider this question will be welcomed, and the outcome awaited with eager interest. I will not refer to it more than casually, as it does not come within the province of my subject, but just to say this, that no scheme of Imperial Federation would be complete which does not embrace a fiscal union—Imperial Federation will not be complete unless side by side with a political, there is a commercial union.

As to the question of the Crown Colonies, there is not much to be said. Colonial history has shown that as a Colony developed and increased in wealth and population, when the conditions were ripe it has obtained self-government, and it is not unreasonable to suppose, nay, it is quite within the bounds of probability, that self-government will be accorded to the Crown Colonies as they become adapted to it, and when they obtain that, they can take their place in the Federal system.

It has often been asserted that a political federation of the Empire would be impracticable, that any attempt to federate the Empire, on the basis of American, Australian, or Canadian federation, would never succeed, that such a federation would be doomed to failure. To that we can only say that just as it may be deemed impossible to-day, so was the federation of Australia or Canada deemed impossible in its time, yet to-day we see those great communities each united under one central Government. It has often been urged that federation would be impossible, because of the scattered areas of the Empire, the vast distances, the miles of ocean which separate them, but on the other hand we must remember the increasing rapidity of communications, the steamships, and the telegraph, which are bringing the various portions of the Empire more and more in touch with one another. Difficulties there are undoubtedly, but British statesmanship has

before now overcome difficulties as great if not greater. Rome was not built in a day, nor will the federation of the Empire be accomplished in a day. In the meantime, we can draw nearer and nearer towards the goal. The end and aim of Imperial Policy should be Federation—for policy, for commerce, for defence—a federation in which the enormous wealth, talent, strength, and resources of the Empire will be combined for the mutual benefit of all, and the lasting permanence of the whole.

Mr. Haskell then proposed the following Resolution:—

That in the opinion of this meeting, the plan described by Sir Frederick Pollock, in his letter to the *Times*—viz: the formation of a Committee of the Privy Council on Imperial affairs, consisting of the best possible representatives of Colonial knowledge and opinion, to act in an advisory capacity to the Cabinet, would tend to promote the consolidation of the Empire, and would be a great step towards Imperial Federation, and this meeting endorses the suggestion that such a proposal be submitted to the next Colonial Conference of Prime Ministers for discussion.

Mr. J. DYER BALL in seconding the proposition said: We have to thank the lecturer for bringing the subject before our notice in time, and I only wish the Hongkong community would come out in larger numbers to listen to a question which I think is rather vital to us as colonists; although, as a Crown colony, it would not affect us so much as a self-governing colony if it ever becomes a possible fact. It is not so many years ago that some of England's greatest statesmen wished to cast off her colonies, but now I think it is not only the Mother Country drawing the cords that bind her nearer to her children, but her children also do not wish to let go their mother's apron strings and go off on their own hook. We have now the telegraph wires, like nerves, connecting Great and Greater Britain together, and we may even hope that our desires will be wafted by the winds of the air, by the Marconi system, in time to come. Now is the proper time to request the Mother Country to take some action to draw herself and her colonies closer together.

Sir H. S. BERKELEY said: I wish to thank the lecturer for the extremely able and delicate address given us. The subject is one which I do not feel capable of dealing with at such short notice.

Mr. HURSTHOUSE: I have listened with very considerable interest to the remarks of Mr. Haskell. The subject is one which I confess I know little about; I came here for the express purpose of learning more, and must say I am not disappointed. I quite agree with the remarks of the lecturer that federation proper must be something on the lines of the German or American Confederations, but there is a vast difference between the American States and the British Empire. The American States have the great advantage of being contiguous; there is a direct incentive towards combination for defence, and when all is said and done, this is the greatest and most material point of all. On the other hand the British Empire is so scattered over the earth's surface—the sun never sets on it, some people say because God is afraid to trust us in the dark—that the mere fact of Australia being attacked by an enemy, does not show that Canada is going to be attacked by the same enemy. Any scheme of imperial federation which is to be of any use must emanate from the colonies themselves; if they do not wish it, then it is useless to attempt to force anything of the sort upon them. I understood the lecturer to say that the colonies wanted federation, but I am sorry to say that at present they do not. There has been a great tendency observable for a long time past towards more complete separation. The colonies prefer purely local government, and a purely local command of their military forces. As regards the Navy the same remarks do not apply, as the colonies know that in time of war it is obviously to the interest of Great Britain to keep open all the great trade routes. I do not think this tendency points toward disloyalty, but with the Canadian or Australian it is—"Canada for the Canadians," and "Australia for the Australians." I hope I am wrong, but I think we must face the possibility of ultimate separation. At any rate,

we can welcome anything that will bring the colonies into closer touch with the Home Government.

Mr. H. E. POLLOK: Personally I think the object of the scheme proposed by Sir Frederick Pollock is a very important one, and important points affecting the colonies can be only arrived at after mature discussion by those who have spent the best parts of their lives there. Mr. Hursthouse made mention of the Boer war, which showed that the colonies were ready and willing to send forth their sons to fight in the cause of the empire. South Africa is a country which furnishes illustrations of very grave mistakes which have been made in part by the want of appreciation by the authorities at home of the actual condition of affairs which exist on the spot. If the British nation had been able to press forward and voice their own views on the subject, we should never have had such an incident to record in history as the secession of the Transvaal after Majuba, which led up to the direct cause of the Boer war. Another striking instance is furnished by the American war of secession. The people in Great Britain were in absolute ignorance of the feeling in the colonies with regard to the obnoxious taxes imposed. Had they known, they would have been withdrawn, and our cousins, instead of being separated now as they are politically, would possibly have remained portion of the empire. What is required is for the colonies to inform the authorities at home of the views of those on the spot who have been in actual contact with the practical realities of colonial life. I venture to think that Mr. Hursthouse took rather a despondent view of the relations between the Mother Country and the colonies. The forces levied there are local forces of volunteers, and the colonies should retain military forces. With regard to the Navy, the feeling in the colonies is that the sea is one, and the ships of the empire are considered as one and worked more or less as a homogeneous whole. No doubt you have noticed that the Admiralty have formulated a scheme, grouping together the various ships of every part, for homogeneous and concerted action, and that is the reason the Colonies are beginning to see the importance of unity in Naval matters.

DISQUIETUDE IN KWANGTUNG.

A gentleman who has just arrived at Hongkong from the interior informs us that there is every indication of a serious general uprising in Kwangtung Province, especially in the delta of the Canton River. Well-informed wealthy natives even consider it advisable to leave their homes to take refuge at Hongkong and elsewhere. Piracy is rampant, rendering the inhabitants of small towns in constant fear of being either robbed or kidnapped for ransom. At Tongka (in Heungshan District) last week the pirates captured the baggage of several Chinese returning from the United States baggage containing money, etc. to the value of \$5,000. On one side of Wongmoon (at the mouth of the West River) the natives were prevented from cultivating their autumn rice crop because they refused to pay blackmail—so much per mow. The Officials are quite incapable, and police boats are even known to witness acts of piracy without attempting to guard the shipping and country. The other day the pirates captured the guard boat at Taiping Creek without meeting any resistance, and they took away all the arms, ammunition, etc. Arms are being smuggled into the country in large quantities.

The *Singapore Free Press* publishes the following:—Brussels, December 1.—A Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce has just been founded in Brussels, and is declared to be the first Chinese Chamber of Commerce established in the world. It already includes a hundred and fifty members, Chinese and Belgian merchants and traders, and it is the intention of its members, in addition to the work of the Chamber of Commerce in Belgium, to establish a commercial agency for the use of its members at Shanghai. The trade between Belgium and China has increased very considerably of late, chiefly owing to the encouragement given to it in high quarters in Belgium.

"THE HON. MR."

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Straits Echo*, publishes a slashing article apparently directed against the Governor of Hongkong for holding that members of the Legislative Council of that Colony (and of the Straits Settlements for that matter) should be addressed, individually as the Hon'ble Mr. F. O. B. Smithers or the Hon'ble Mr. C. J. F. MacPhutt, instead of as the Hon'ble F. O. B. Smithers or the Hon'ble C. J. F. MacPhutt respectively. Our contemporary sarcastically points out that: "It is now officially declared to be wrong not to Mister unofficials, and it is therefore to be deprecated." As a matter of fact the customary omission of the "Mr." is really a compliment, and by insisting upon the presence of the "Mr." in official correspondence and reports, Sir Matthew Nathan has shorn the official and unofficial Honorables of Hongkong of a small title of their doubtless well-merited glory. The Hon'ble Tommy Dodds is an appellation which implies that Tommy is the younger son of an Earl or some son of a Viscount or a baron—tho' he is in fact *filius nobilis*. The Hon'ble Mr. Tommy Dodds implies that Tommy has acquired his title by merit or favour, and that he is not an Honorable by birth. By courtesy of usage, however, the Mr. is as a rule omitted save in official correspondence. Nobody with the most rudimentary ideas of courtesy would address, in conversation, the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding a battalion by any other military title than that of Colonel. Similarly, by custom, the Mr. is generally omitted from the local Honorables of this part of the world. But customs differ in different places. We have seen a semi-official letter of introduction from the Private Secretary of President Roosevelt to the American representative at St. Petersburg. It began: "My dear Ambassador McCormick." The private Secretary to the King would not preface a letter of introduction to Sir Arthur Hardinge as "My dear Ambassador Hardinge."—*Straits Times*.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

Writing on the 6th inst., the *N.C. Daily News* said: It will be learnt with general satisfaction that an authentic telegram was received here yesterday from the American-China Development Company in New York, stating that the control of the stock of the Canton-Hankow Railway is again in American hands, the Belgian interests having been bought out. All English and American residents at any rate in China will be glad to hear this, the sale to the Belgians having been a blow to our interests in China, and having had a marked effect particularly on American prestige. The recovery of the control was very markedly assisted by the embargo put on the bonds by the Chinese, who regarded the transfer of the concession to Belgian hands as a breach of faith, and by the sympathetic action of the Department of State at Washington. Arrangements have been made to procure all the capital necessary to complete the line, and to keep the control permanently in American hands, whatever may happen. Thus we have a very satisfactory solution of the difficulties which have lately impeded the operations of the American-China Development Company, and we may expect to see the construction of the important trunk line from Canton to Hankow proceeded with rapidly and energetically. We trust, too, that it will not be many months before work is begun on the English or Anglo-Chinese railway between Kowloon and Canton.

And in its "Native Notes," our contemporary had this:—An Important Intrigue Blocked—His Excellency Sir Chen-tung Liang Ch'ang, K.C.M.G., Chinese Minister at Washington, deserves well of his countrymen by blocking the plans of the Belgians—who are well-known by the Chinese to be acting on behalf of French and Russian capitalists—in getting control of the Yueh-Han, or Canton-Hankow Railway, thereby preventing the forging of more chains and fetters for the body politic of this country, an act which stamps his Excellency at once as an able and clever diplomat. In other words, we learn that Sir Chen-tung by impounding the bonds of the railway in question has made it impossible for

the Belgians to get hold of these bonds to place them on the market, in consequence of which they have been compelled to sell them back to the original American Syndicate. This news will doubtlessly be received with satisfaction by all Chinese and their foreign friends who have the welfare of China sincerely at heart. We heartily congratulate Sir Chen-tung Liang Cheng and H. E. Sheng Kung-pao on the able manner in which they have conducted a very delicate and important matter to a successful conclusion.

CHINESE EMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA.

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

The hearing of the case in which Wong Chuk Yau and Wong Tim were charged with (1) Defrauding one, Han Tim, of the sum of \$850; (2) and (3) Unlawfully attempting to defraud and deceive the China Navigation and Eastern and Australian S.S. Companies by obtaining from the said companies a passenger ticket for one Han Tim, to enable him to personate one Ah Wai, was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on the 10th instant. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, instructed by Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, prosecuted, and Mr. G. K. H. Brutton represented the first defendant, Wong Chuk Yau.

John William Hanson, Chief Detective Inspector, continued:—I was present when each of the defendants was charged. Their statements were taken in my presence.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brutton: I do not think it is necessary to have a photograph on an Australian naturalisation paper. As far as I know, Wong Chuk Yau is the master of the Chan Hop. The second defendant, Wong Tim, is employed there. The Crown Solicitor directed me to arrest the second defendant. When I saw Han Sui at the Chan Hop with the papers in his hand he said—"These are what I am to use to go with." I am sure the photograph produced is of Han Tim. I do not know whether shipping companies require return passages guaranteed in the case of the Chinese passengers to Australia. The photograph produced (of Han Tim) is not like Han Sui.

Douglas Abbey deposed:—I am passenger clerk in Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's, the agents for the China Navigation Co., Ltd. I am in charge of the booking of passengers by steamers on the Australian run. We are not allowed to carry more than 20 Chinese passengers without a licence. Our broker brings us a list of the Chinese passengers wanting to go, also a list of papers issued by the authorities in the Australian States. We would not issue a ticket if a Chinese passenger had no papers from the Australian authorities. I examine the papers when they are brought by intending passengers to the office. The papers are handed to the captain of the ship. He takes charge of them. The exhibit produced appears to be a certificate of naturalisation issued by the Government of South Australia. If a Chinaman had come to me with that paper, and had answered the questions I put to him, I should have given him a ticket. I would not have required him to produce a photograph. Certificates of domicile have photographs on them. If an intending passenger did not agree with the papers produced by him, I should refuse to issue a ticket. If a Chinese passenger arrives in Australia, and the authorities do not find his papers agree with his description, he must be brought back here at the expense of the ship. Each Chinese passenger going to Australia must have his return passage guaranteed. The guarantee would be given to the broker, and we would hold him responsible.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brutton:—Intending immigrants are introduced to our broker by other passenger brokers. We look to our broker for the passage money, so that practically the company does not stand to lose in case of the return of a passenger.

Cheung Hok Ling declared:—On the 21st December I read over and explained the charge to the first defendant at the Central Station, and after administering the usual caution, he made the statement produced.

Mr. Brutton objected to the statement being put in as evidence, as it was taken in connection with the charge of forgery which had since been withdrawn.

His Worship decided that it should be put in for the present, and the matter as to its admissibility could be argued later.

Mr. Bowley asked permission to put in the letters between Wong Chuk Yau and Han Tim. Mr. Brutton objected as the conspiracy had not been proved.

Mr. Bowley:—If Wong Tim had taken the papers he got to a shipping company, the company would be liable to be deceived, and if the fraud were discovered, would be put to the expense of bringing the man back.

His Worship: It has been given in evidence that the company's broker guarantees the risk of a loss.

Mr. Bowley: It is quite right that the passage broker recoups the company. The conspiracy is proved in that the two men endeavoured to defraud Han Tim by obtaining from him the sum of \$850 on the representation that they were assisting him to legally land in Australia. On the three charges a *prima facie* case of conspiracy is established. If a passenger got into Australia the shipping company would be deceived, but not defrauded; on the other hand, if he were not allowed to land, the company would have to bring him back.

Mr. Brutton submitted that before the letters were put in the charge of conspiracy must be proved. Not merely in intention, but by agreement between the parties. There was no evidence with regard to the combination, and no proof forthcoming to prove that they conspired to defraud the two companies. They might just as well say that he and his clerk had conspired to defraud somebody in his office. It was impossible for the defendants to actually defraud the shipping companies. The only man who could do that was Han Tim himself, and if he chose to go to the defendants he was a party to the conspiracy, as he was willing to pay \$850 for what he knew was a false certificate.

Mr. Bowley said the defendants were acting in concert as the result of a previous agreement. He had proved certain acts committed by them, from which the fact that they had agreed together could be inferred.

His Worship: The whole case turns on the point as to whether there was conspiracy or no conspiracy. If conspiracy is proved the letters go in, and I am bound to commit the case to the Sessions. I will reserve the point.

INTERNATIONAL LAW AGAIN.

[FROM A SOUTH AFRICAN CORRESPONDENT.]

A fact, which has long been known to lawyers and diplomats, but which has been little understood by the general public, has been brought into unpleasant prominence by the Russo-Japanese war, namely the slender force of international law. Those who have had to study the subject or have had to deal with it practically have long been aware that so-called international law is hardly law in the proper sense of the word. Apart from specific treaty obligations, which are not very numerous, there is little beyond very general theory to bind nations upon many of the most important international questions; and when these come to practical application we have to rely rather upon the honour and conscientiousness of the nations concerned than upon any means of enforcing them. Law without the means of upholding it is, however, no law at all, and so-called international law is unfortunately of this nature. Of this we have had of late but too many illustrations, most prominent among which of course stand the Malacca incident and the Baltic fishing fleet outrage. The latter, of course, was of the nature either of an unpardonable blunder, or, more unpardonable wantonness; and can hardly be brought within the sphere of any discussion of principles of international law. With the Malacca incident the matter stood differently. Much plausible argument may be adduced as to the right of search of neutral vessels, and no general principle can be laid down which will cover all cases. Such principles as exist are largely derived from Jurists who, eminent

though they were in their time, still dealt with a state of facts totally different from those existing in the present day. Grotius, Vattel, and other eminent authorities, will carry us but a small distance in practically dealing with any question that may now arise, and even such authorities as Wheaton and Story are, for the same reasons, often but partial guides in circumstances totally different from any with which they were acquainted. Let scholars discuss as much as they like the principles of international law, it is the Governments concerned who have to apply them, and who do so for the most part, when at all events one side is actuated by the strongest feeling and at times pressed by the direst necessity. Under such circumstances it can hardly be expected that the nicest discrimination will be observed in the application of principles of international law, even if those principles were not sufficiently vague in themselves.

It is not very surprising, therefore, to find that one of the most eminent exponents of international law, Mr. Dicey, should recently have come forward and assured us that the branch of Law to which he has devoted so much study is really of very little practical use in the settlement of international disputes, and that in effect the public generally are very ignorant in imagining that it could possibly be so. The spectacle is sad no doubt, but it also instructive, and it is at least valuable in a very important direction. It is something to have one, whose intimate acquaintance with international law makes it impossible for opponents of his views to assert that he does not know what he is talking about, on the side of the common sense people who have always questioned the possibility of establishing international tribunals, or of finding some preventives for war in an imaginary High Court of Arbitration. Such an ideal, however attractive it may be, must be regarded as merely an ideal by all who judge by facts, and not by feelings. Mr. Dicey points to the impossibility of maintaining anything like strict neutrality when once political feelings are fairly aroused; and upon this ground he endeavours to exonerate Germany from many of the charges which he considers have been unjustly made against her in the British Press, in connection with the war. Neutrality, in fact, is considered by him to be almost an impossibility, and in this he is probably not very far from the truth. Whether all his deductions from the fact can be followed must be matter of opinion; but it must be admitted that he has touched the weak point of international law with considerable accuracy. Principles usually discussed in times of peace with scholastic nicety have to be applied in times of war, when necessity, which proverbially knows no law, international or other, must be the guiding motive. In the end, their maintenance must depend upon a more enlarged view of national advantage than the majority of even tried Statesmen are found to possess. What may be very advantageous on one occasion to a nation, may prove eminently the contrary on another; and far-sighted Statesmen, even in times of stress or of actual war, will be slow to act on any principle which, if the circumstances become reversed, may be turned with serious effect against themselves. This bearing of the subject has been very much lost sight of by Russia on many occasions during the war; but it is to be hoped that it has not been forgotten by our own Statesmen and those of other countries. With respect to purchase from neutrals of convertible trading vessels and the like acts, it might be poor policy on our part to press such a point further than it should be legitimately carried; as obviously the occasion might arise when we might wish to do very much the same thing; and, in the same way, it would be impolitic on our part to press too strongly against the right to search neutral vessels, as this right must be of the greatest importance to any nation dependent upon her naval resources. In all such cases the most that can be relied upon is *bona fides* and statesmanly foresight on the part of the nations concerned. Any attempts to press international laws further must be productive of disappointment—and as to the idea that some international tribunal might be established, whose dictates in the event of disputes arising would have the effect of for ever averting war, one

consideration alone is sufficient to show its impractical character. Not only would it be impossible for such a tribunal to enforce its decisions, but in nine cases out of ten it would not and could not do what is much more important, namely, remove the causes of the dispute between the parties, which removal is generally brought about by a war. If an Arbitration Tribunal had ordered Russia to go out of Manchuria and to cease menacing Japan, does anybody imagine she would have done so? Even now, if one can imagine her doing so at the dictation of any such imaginary tribunal, how long does any sensible man believe it would be before she would be back again? No doubt minor questions may and should be settled by arbitration, if other means cannot be found, but large international questions, where, in some cases, the very life of a nation is at stake, cannot possibly be so adjusted while the world and human nature continue what they are.

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the eighth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers on Wednesday, 18th January, is as follows:—Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts made up to 31st December, 1904.

The gross earnings for the past year amount to \$132,860.00, and after deducting all expenses, remuneration to general managers, consulting committee's and auditors' fees, there remains a balance of \$106,581.29, which it is recommended be appropriated as follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund	\$25,000.00
To pay a dividend of 8 per cent.	80,000.00
To carry forward to the credit of next year's account	1,581.29

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.—Mr. J. H. Lewis having left the Colony, Mr. H. P. White was invited to take his place on the consulting committee. In accordance with the articles of association, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Chau Tung Shang, Dr. J. W. Noble and H. P. White retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

The accounts are as follows:— PROFIT AND LOSS.

Charges	\$ 5,715.35	c.
Consulting committee fees	4,000.00	
Auditors' fees	200.00	
Balance of office furniture account written off	500.00	
Balance	106,581.29	
	\$116,036.64	
	\$ 1,171.98	c.
Balance	\$	
Interest received on mortgages, loans, &c.	132,860.00	
Less interest paid, commission, &c., &c.	17,255.34	
	115,604.66	
Unclaimed dividends written off	220.00	
	\$116,996.64	

BALANCE-SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital 200,000 shares at \$10	\$2,000,000.00		
Less 100,000 shares unissued	1,000,000.00		
	1,000,000.00		
Reserve fund	55,000.00		
Sundry creditors	19,922.67		
Due to General Managers	1,643.00		
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	81,254.05		
Balance of profit and loss	106,581.29		
	\$1,264,401.01		
ASSETS.		\$	c.
Loans on provident system	\$719,568.77		
On mortgages, shares, &c.	317,226.11		
	1,036,794.88		
150 China Light and Power Co., Limited 8 per cent. debentures	150,000.00		
Investment of reserve fund			
1,350 shares Green Island Cement Co., Ltd. at \$30	\$40,500.00		

2,530 shares China Light Power Co., Ltd. at \$9 (new issue)	22,500.00
Sundry debtors	63,000.00
Cash	13,643.19
	963.01
	\$1,264,401.01

SHEWAN TOMES & CO.
General Managers.

TRIPLE EXECUTION AT HONGKONG.

On the morning of the 11th instant, Charles Smith, Erik Hogman, and William Nason expiated the crimes of which they were found guilty, and on account thereof condemned to death. The authorities are reticent on matters appertaining to the execution, and all our representative could glean from the Superintendent of the gaol was that the men admitted the justice of the sentence, and walked boldly on to the scaffold.

From other sources, which may be questionable, we learn that Smith and Hogman walked boldly on to the scaffold, while Nason broke down and had to be supported to the drop. It is alleged that the last words of Smith were "Lord have mercy on my soul: May God bless you all." Hogman in a dull voice repeated over and over again "My God. My God." Nason is alleged to have made a lengthy statement which was taken down by the Superintendent of the gaol. One of the clergymen present, it is said, was so impressed with the terrible scene that he broke down and wept.

THE INQUEST.

At 12 o'clock noon in the large court, before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz sitting as Coroner, the following jury were sworn in to deliver a verdict as to the cause of death:—Messrs T. Spafford, John Johnston and Henry C. Sandford. After administration of the juror's oath, the jury together with Press representatives went into the gaol and viewed the bodies of the deceased. "Well, gentlemen of the jury, are you satisfied?" asked the Coroner. The gentlemen of the jury expressed themselves satisfied and returned to their seats in Court.

The Coroner, addressing them, said that when a person dies in gaol from capital punishment, it is provided by law that an inquiry shall be held. In the case of an execution by legal process, the case comes under what is known as justifiable homicide. The Coroner then read as follows from volume 3 of "Russell on Crime"—"It has been already stated that justifiable homicide is of several kinds, as it may be occasioned by the performance of acts of unavoidable necessity, or by acts done by the permission of the law. Amongst the acts of unavoidable necessity may be classed the execution of malefactors, by the person whose office obliges him, in the performance of public justice to put those to death who have forfeited their lives by the laws and verdict of their country. These, are acts of necessity, and even of civil duty, and therefore, not only justifiable, but commendable, where the law requires them. But the law must require them, otherwise they are not justifiable: and, therefore, wantonly to kill the greatest of malefactors would be murder: and we have seen that all acts of official duty should, in the nature of their execution, be conformable to the judgment by which they are directed."

The first witness was Edward John Pierpoint, who deposed:—I am chief warder of Victoria Gaol. The bodies the jury have just viewed are those of Charles Smith, Erik Hogman and William Nason, who were received into prison on 23rd December, 1904, under sentence of death, which sentence was duly carried out at eleven minutes past five this morning in the presence of Mr. Craig, Assistant Superintendent of Victoria Gaol, Dr. Thomson, Medical Officer, myself, and the usual escort of officers, also the Rev. J. H. France and Rev. W. Bridie. I produce the Governor's warrant for the execution.

In reply to the Coroner:—The sentence of the law was carried into effect by hanging.

John Christopher Thomson said:—I am medical officer of the gaol. I was present at the execution this morning. Death in all three cases was instantaneous. I examined the bodies after they were taken down. Death was in all three due to dislocation of the neck.

The Coroner, addressing the jury, said:—Gentlemen of the jury, you have to find whether deceased met their deaths by hanging, in due process of law.

The Foreman of the Jury: That is the verdict of the jury, your Worship.

About thirty minutes after midnight, on Wednesday, a *Daily Press* reporter, who chanced to be in Caine Road, witnessed the funeral cortege of the unhappy men who were executed some eighteen hours before. Each of the three coffins was carried by four coolies by means of rope and bamboo poles, and an officer of the gaol followed in a chair. The executed men were buried in a quiet spot on the outskirts of the town.

THE FILIPINO "AMOKS" AT HONGKONG.

During the hearing of the Filipino murder case at the Police Court on Dec. 9th, Mr. Gompertz called the Captain of the *Tremont* into Court, and asked him what steps were taken to inform the Police of the murder on board.

The Captain said the Police signal lights were shown—two red lights with a white light in the centre. This was done about midnight. No attention was taken by the Police. It was a very dark night. Blue lights were also burnt on board.

His Worship: You did not consider the escape of the Filipino of sufficient urgency to fire a gun, or to send a ship ashore?

The Captain: No.

His Worship: What should you have done in case of a fire on board?

The Captain: Sent up a rocket.

His Worship: It is very curious that the sergeant on duty in the Police pinnace passed your ship at a distance of not more than 200 yards, and did not notice any signal lights. It has been given in evidence that the Filipino, Pagain, was in a lighter alongside your ship at one o'clock. If you had made more urgent signals to the Police, in all probability the man would have been secured. As it was, he landed on the Praya, and caused the death of a coolie. A man in your position should have treated the matter as a case of extreme urgency, and done your best to have the man arrested. You ought to have done considerably more than you did in the matter of obtaining Police assistance, and securing the arrest of the Filipino.

The ship's doctor, it appears, took upon himself to embalm the body of the murdered Filipino, and also stitched up the various wounds with twine.

His Worship to the Doctor: Don't you think you have been very indiscreet?

Dr. Howell: I think I have.

His Worship: It is a serious matter to interfere with criminal jurisprudence, which might possibly amount to a misdemeanour. However, I will this time overlook the matter.

The hearing of this case, in which Pagain was charged with the murder of another Filipino called Apowen, on the American steamer *Tremont*, was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on the 9th inst. Inspector Langley prosecuted.

Dr. Hunter, medical officer in charge of post-mortem examinations, was the next witness. After examination of the body of the dead Filipino, he found that death was due to a stab wound in the abdomen.

Dr. Howell, surgeon on the *Tremont*, said:—On hearing of the assault on board on the 5th inst., I went into the steerage, where I found Sudong lying face downward on the floor. I turned him over and found a wound on the left chest between the clavicle and the second rib. I bound the wound up. Then I noticed further back in the steerage, lying in his bunk, the man Apowen. He had several wounds on the body, the ones on the shoulder, wrist, and abdomen being serious. When I saw him he was gasping. I did not see him again before he was dead. In my opinion the abdominal wound was the cause of death.

By Inspector Langley:—After embalming the body I ordered it to be confined as a means of keeping it. I was present on the 6th inst. and ordered the coffin to be opened at your request.

Charles Petersen deposed:—I am quartermaster on the s.s. *Tremont*. I was on duty on

board on the evening of the 5th inst. I went down to the mess room to get a cup of tea. While there I heard a yell, and hearing a second, went to see the cause of it. I went into the galley and saw a man standing there. I switched on the light and saw blood all over the floor, and that the man was wounded. I also saw that another man was killed. A woman pointed him out to me lying in his bunk. I went on deck and told the doctor and the second mate, who reported the matter to the Captain.

Dangusan, one of the Filipino women on board the *Tremont*, declared:—I am a passenger returning to the Philippines from the St. Louis Exhibition. There are 24 of us on board. We are natives of Igorroti. I was asleep in the steerage on the night of the 5th. I was awakened by cries of "Anina," "Anina"; which means "I am in great pain." I pushed aside the covering of my bunk and looked out. I saw Apowen in his bunk across the room, holding his hand on his stomach and calling out "Anina, Anina," again. I could see blood dripping down. I called out for assistance. Our companions (the Igorrotes) sat up in their beds. As I looked at them I noticed that one of the number was missing. I know Sudong. He did not sleep in the same room as Apowen. The dagger produced belongs to another Filipino on board. I saw the accused take it from the top of a bunk. I told Mr. Pettit, who went and took it from the accused. He handed it to me. I returned it to the owner, who put it into his box and locked it up. I know of no quarrel between any members of the party on board. Defendant and deceased are both married men, but their wives are not on board.

Leong Wah declared:—I am a watchman at the Kowloon Godowns. I was alongside the *Tremont* on the 5th inst. One of the Filipinos on board came down on to my boat with a rope. He went on board a sampan from my boat. After some time the Filipino returned to my boat. He wanted to get into a water tank on board. I prevented him from doing so. He then wanted to go into the hold, but as I would not let him he crossed again to a cargo boat. He stood on the deck for about eight or ten minutes, then he jumped into the water, and I did not see him again. I cannot recognise the prisoner. It was nearly dark when I saw him.

Charles Ernest Pettit deposed:—I am in charge of the Filipinos returning from the St. Louis Exposition. I was ashore when the trouble occurred on the *Tremont*. I returned on board about twelve o'clock that night. I do not know of any quarrel amongst the members of the Filipino Company. I took the knife produced from Pagain about three days before the murder. I handed it back to the owner.

Lazaro Bebit, the Filipino interpreter, stated:—I was on board the *Tremont* when the tragedy occurred. I did not go down in the steerage. I saw Apowen in his bunk from outside. I have known the deceased 20 years, and the accused 16 years. I know of no quarrels between them. The literal translation of the words of the accused when he saw a knife in the Doctor's hand, is: "It is true that I killed that man with this knife." On the night of the murder, the defendant was the only one of the company missing from the ship. A general search was made, but proved of no avail. I next saw him at the Central Station on the 7th instant, where, after reading over and explaining the charge to him, and cautioning him in the usual form, I took his statement, which consisted of one word meaning "Yes."

Nicholas George Nolan, Police Court Interpreter, said:—On the 7th instant defendant was charged at the Central Police Station. I read and explained the charge to the last witness. The defendant made a statement to the interpreter which he wrote on a statement form. He wrote the word "Si" the interpretation whereof is "Yes."

P. C. No. 112 gave evidence as to seeing the signals on board the *Tremont* for Police assistance; also as to the search on board for Pagain.

On being asked if he had anything to say Pagain said:—"When I came on shore from the steamer I intended to go on board again. There were Chinese on the shore. They said 'By-and-bye, by-and-bye.' A policeman then came and arrested me and brought me to the station."

His Worship committed accused to take his trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

Pagain was further charged with the murder of the ricksha coolie at West Point on Friday last. After hearing the evidence of arrest, His Worship remanded the case till the 16th instant.

At the Police Court on the 7th instant before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, a Filipino, Pagain, was charged with feloniously, wilfully and with malice aforethought, murdering another Filipino named Apowen on board the American steamer *Tremont* in Hongkong harbour on the night of the 5th inst. Inspector Langley of the Water Police prosecuted.

In answer to the charge Pagain said:—"I am guilty; I killed."

Chow Fuk, sworn, said: On the 6th instant I was on the *Wingchai* steamer's wharf. I heard cries of "Policeman" in Chinese. I went up and saw a ricksha coolie sitting down. He was wounded and bleeding from the chest. The defendant was standing there. He held a knife in his hand. I asked the coolie who stabbed him. He pointed out the defendant as the man. I went up to arrest him and he made a lunge at my chest with a knife. I parried the blow with my hand and closed with him, at the same time blowing my whistle. P. C. No. 49 came up as I took the knife from him. The constable took the coolie to the hospital and I took defendant to the Central Police Station.

Hearing continues.

[The ricksha coolie, who was so murderously assaulted by the man now in custody, succumbed to his injuries at eleven o'clock yesterday morning at the Government Civil Hospital. Pagain will therefore have to answer a second charge of murder.]

1904 AT SINGAPORE.

The past year has been perhaps the poorest trade year for Singapore in the last decade, says the *Straits Times*. Money has been very tight, and owing to the decrease in the volume and value of exports, the purchasing power of the natives generally has been greatly reduced. Business during the first half of 1904 was almost stagnant, but improved to some extent in the last six months. The enormous demands from India and Australia for piece goods had a favourable effect on this market in spite of the very heavy fall in the price of raw cotton after the American corner, and orders booked recently cannot be met till near the middle of 1905, keeping prices level which would otherwise have fallen considerably. The war in Manchuria led to large orders in khaki and drills on the part of the Japanese for the supply of the armies in the field, proving the truth of the aphorism that it is "an ill wind that blows nobody good." Stocks have not yet been published, but they will probably show large decreases compared with the close of 1903 in heavy grey shirtings and T. cloths as well as yarns, white shirtings and Turkey reds. Prints and sarongs are in fair stock, although imports of the former have fallen off. Metals generally, with the exception perhaps of wire nails and tin plates, are above the average as well as candles and cement.

Prospects for 1905 are not accounted very reassuring. The low prices ruling for produce show no tendency towards a rise: and as long as the natives find poor returns coming in for their goods it seems they prefer to deny themselves the imported articles for which the raw materials are bartered at the outports. Some of the other conditions that went to make up a bad trade year may slacken in time to affect advantageously the incoming twelve months. The high rates fixed upon by the Shipping Convention have resulted in some trade which formerly passed through Singapore being diverted to Dutch ports, where easier rates were obtainable. The dislocation caused by the currency question is said to have been rather exaggeratedly expressed, so that the trouble from this cause may ease down somewhat. A good deal of capital which has been tied up in land and in Tanjong Pagar will, it is hoped relieve the tightness of the money market during the early months of the new year with good results to trading interests generally.

THE TRADE OF JAPAN.

In an article on the foreign trade of the Empire for the present year, the *Chugai Shogyo*, the leading commercial paper of Tokyo, says that according to investigations made by the Finance Department, the total value of Japan's export trade this year up to the 25th instant amounts to ¥313,000,000 in round figures, and that of the import trade to ¥362,000,000. A few days yet remained before the year end, but the value of business done in that time would be only trifling, so that the figures given may be taken as representing the year's trade. Compared with the preceding two years, the result of Japan's foreign trade for 1904 shows a good improvement, as will be seen from the following table:—

MERCHANDISE.

	Export. Yen	Import. Yen	Total. Yen
1902 ..	258,303,064	271,731,258	530,034,323
1903 ..	284,181,207	311,925,216	596,006,423
1904 ..	313,269,901	362,873,546	676,143,447

GOLD AND SILVER.

	Export Yen	Import Yen
1902...	2,028,981	32,161,358
1903 ..	18,383,281	27,769,268
1904 ..	107,633,694	33,571,214

The figures for 1903-4 in the above tables represent values up to December 26th for Yokohama and eight other ports.

The bulk of the foreign trade this year, continues the Tokyo journal, amounts to 676,000,000 yen in round figures, showing an increase of some 60,000,000 yen over the value for last year—exports representing an increase of 29,000,000 yen and imports 50,000,000 yen. The value of the foreign trade of the Empire in 1903 was the largest since the opening of the country to foreign commerce, and the result this year shows an increase over last year, which must be regarded as very satisfactory in view of the war. The fact that the export of bullion exceeded 100,000,000 yen is chiefly due to the large quantities of war munitions purchased from abroad.

In a series of articles on the economical situation and the war, the same journal says:—

"There is little doubt that the industry and thrift observed by the nation, which has largely assisted the prosperity of the foreign export trade, and the negative policy pursued by bankers and other business men, which has relieved the money-market, are the principal causes which maintain the healthy state of economic circles, but there is another cause which must not be overlooked. That is the blessing of Providence—the great success of the various harvests and the increase in the demand for Japanese goods abroad. The great success of the export trade this year could not have been without the increased demand for Japanese goods abroad, and this is accounted for by the victories of our arms in Manchuria. Japanese goods have been received with enthusiasm in England and America. The Japanese building at the St. Louis Exhibition was very largely patronised.

"The principal lines of export goods which show a sensible increase over last year are as follows:—

	1904. Yen	1903. Yen
Habutai...	123,838,777	24,406,209
Silk handkerchiefs.	4,333,554	2,746,390
Raw silk ..	81,198,616	56,782,915
Rice ..	4,285,974	3,410,129
Cotton goods ..	6,724,967	6,094,570
Matches ..	8,933,887	7,746,786
Porcelain ..	3,584,107	2,944,970
Straw braid ..	4,703,626	3,398,169
Dried cuttlefish ..	2,342,927	1,803,675

The export of raw silk amounted to some 81,000,000 yen up to last month, showing an increase of 15,000,000 yen over last year, and when the value for this month is added, the total may reach 85,000,000 yen, which is unprecedented in the history of this country. Then comes habutai and silk handkerchiefs, which were also exported to an unprecedented extent. The depression of the home market for silk goods has driven silk weavers to produce goods for export, which have been received abroad with

great favour. Straw braid, matches, bathing towels, matting, lacquer-ware, umbrellas, cigarettes, seaweed and mushrooms, all show more or less increase. Cotton yarn, which was affected by the advance of raw cotton, coal, which suffered from the want of shipping, and copper, which was largely purchased at home for war purposes, experienced a slight falling off. The abundant harvest of rice, barley, and wheat, and silk cocoons amply compensates for this. Had the crops of rice and barley, which are the principal food of the Japanese, men and horses, failed, the strain on the money-market could not have been avoided, as large imports of the staples would have had to be made.

"The harvest of rice, &c., this year as compared with last year is as follows:—

	1904.	1904.
	Koku.	Koku.
Barley and wheat ..	19,642,242	13,545,105
Rice	50,859,798	46,475,038
Silk cocoons ..	1,828,444	1,659,681

Although the rice and barley harvests were so successful, the import of rice was valued at some 56,000,000 yen and that of barley at 8,000,000 yen. But had the harvest this year failed, what would have been the result? It would have brought about a great excess in the value of imports, and the economical condition of the Empire would have been seriously affected."—*Kobe Chronicle*.

According to a report of the Swiss Consul-General in Yokohama, remarks the *Deutsche Export Revue*, no one would have dared, ten years ago, to predict Japan's wonderful development. In 1893 its foreign trade was about \$93,500,000; in 1903, \$303,500,000. The bank deposits of Tokyo in 1895 amounted to less than \$18,500,000; in 1903 they had risen to \$66,500,000; those of Osaka amounted to \$5,000,000 in 1893 and to \$38,500,000 in 1903.

The same surprises await one in connection with Manchuria and Corea. That there is room for European products there is proved by Japan's marvellous progress and development. Manchuria, properly administered, is as susceptible of progress and development as was Japan. The same is true of Northern China, with rich resources in minerals, particularly coal.

Splendid results await anyone who will give the material furnished and to be furnished by China good leadership. The large commercial cities, Colombo, Singapore, Bangkok, Penang, Saigon, Haifong, Hongkong, Shanghai and Kiauchau, are striking examples of what the peace-loving Chinese can accomplish.

Here in the East, trade would be impossible but for the Chinese. Even in Japan the Chinese have made themselves indispensable. What is true of the English, French and German sphere of influence in the East is just as true of the regions presided over by Russia. The life of Port Arthur, Dalny, Nicholaevsk, Vladivostok, Harbin, Chaborovsk and Blagovestchensk, depends upon the activity of the Chinese inhabitants. The final result will, however, depend upon the type of men who assume the lead when peace is again restored. More merchants will want to come here from the West. The efforts of the great Powers to secure a place for their agents in the East is easy to understand. Progress and prosperity will go along faster under theegis of the West than they ever would were the initiative efforts left to the East. China's opposition to strangers, to new trade forms, to railroads, is confined to China proper. Where the Chinaman is a stranger, and immigrant, a colonist, he is far more pliable and adaptable than any other. Thus the fundamentals upon which a foreign trade may be built up are in the East. Everybody is getting ready to be on hand.

England and the United States are ready to follow in the footsteps of Japan, knowing full well that first come will be first served. The opening up of Manchuria and Corea is a foregone conclusion, let the war end as it will. Japan, victorious, is bound to be the leading nation in the East. The balance of power in the Orient will be at Tokyo rather than at Peking. Japan, victorious, means the removal of the last barriers to the Island Empire's marvellous progress in commerce and manufactures. Once the land of Japan is able to be freely bought and owned by the stranger within her gates, capital will flow into her banks and thence into her factories, mines, etc.

A SHANGHAI INQUEST.

An inquest was opened at Shanghai on Dec. 31st to enquire into the circumstances attending the death of John W. Graham, a broker, formerly of Hongkong, and various Chinese ports.

A. L. Anderson identified the body as that of J. W. Graham, who was formerly his partner. The inquest was resumed on 2nd January.

Dr. Ernest Louis Marsh said that he was called in to No. 4, the Bund, at 9.50 on Saturday morning. The body was rigid and cold and was seated on an office chair in front of a desk. It was in an attitude of sleep. The head was bent forward. There were no marks of injury or any marks of violence, but there was a distinct odour of coal gas in the single room which formed the office. Witness at Coroner's request made a post-mortem examination in the afternoon with Dr. Moore-Graham. At this more particular examination of the body no evidence of violence could be found, but the blood and tissues were everywhere in a condition usual in death from suffocation by coal gas. In witness's opinion death was due to suffocation by coal gas, while deceased was sleeping in a small unventilated office. When witness got to the office the gas stove was not turned on, but gas was still escaping from the bracket on the wall.

Dr. G. R. Moore-Graham said that he was called in to No. 4, the Bund, about 9.40 a.m. on Saturday. Deceased was seated in his chair, his hat on and with his hands in his pockets, apparently asleep. On making an examination, witness found that he was dead and had been dead for some hours. Witness thought the gas stove had been turned off when he arrived, but there was a strong smell of gas in the room. By a juror—When the post-mortem examination was made all the organs were found to be perfectly healthy.

Pau Woa-foo stated that he was the office boy at the Russian Consulate. He knew Mr. Graham through seeing him go in and out. Witness was returning about 1 a.m. on Saturday when he saw Mr. Graham trying to open the door. A ricksha coolie told witness that Mr. Graham had been trying to open the door for over half an hour and had not succeeded. Witness did not stop to see when deceased would get in. By his appearance witness thought he must be under the influence of drink.

Chang Ah-kwei said that he was Mr. Graham's office coolie. He began work about 7.30 a.m. When he went to the office on Saturday morning he found the door unlocked. He entered and found Mr. Graham sitting in the office chair. Witness opened the window and tidied up the office. There was a strong smell of gas in the room. Witness at once turned off the gas in the stove. It was not lit, but gas was escaping. The stove had never given any trouble before. He thought his master was asleep, so after opening the window and tidying the room, he left. Mr. Graham had never slept in the office before, to his knowledge.

By a juror—Deceased was not in the habit of going back to the office late at night. Witness would not know if he did go back.

Witness said when he got back to the office late at 9.30 a.m. he tried to wake his master but could not. He then thought Mr. Graham was dead and went to report the matter at the Club.

Basilio Mayno Carion said that when he was leaving the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank after midnight on Friday he met deceased in a ricksha near the Jinkee Road. He was in a very sleepy condition.

Henry Edward McCann stated that he was a sharebroker. About 9.35 a.m. on Saturday he went into the office. He noticed a strong smell of gas but did not notice the condition of the stove. Witness went into the Club to see if he could find Dr. Moore-Graham, as a bystander said he was there. He then returned to the office and telephoned to the police station. Witness knew deceased fairly well, and so far as he was aware deceased was not in financial difficulties.

A. L. Anderson, recalled, said that he was formerly deceased's partner and that four years ago the gas stove in their office had to be worked with care. If the valve were opened full when one was about to light the stove, the gas would

explode and the stove would not remain alight. In witness's opinion an accident with the stove might easily have happened. Witness remembered on one occasion turning the stove out at 2 o'clock one morning. When he opened the office at 7 o'clock the room was full of gas.

By a juror—On settlement night it was not unlikely that a broker would work all night; witness had done so himself in that office.

Mr. McCann, recalled, and questioned by a juror, said that on two or three occasions he had met deceased out early, and he had explained that he was working late the previous night and had slept in the office.

The Coroner said that was all the evidence he proposed to take. The question the jury had to decide was whether deceased met his death through misadventure or whether he had purposely turned on the gas stove. Mr. Anderson's evidence was important as showing that the stove had to be lighted with care.

The jury, without retiring, agreed that deceased met his death through misadventure.—*N. C. Daily News*.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT HONGKONG.

SEVERAL CHINESE BURNED TO DEATH.

A serious fire occurred at No. 163, Hollywood Road, on the 11th instant, wherein several Chinese were roasted alive. The fire broke out on the ground floor of the shop, and although the brigade were promptly notified and were quickly on the spot, by the time they arrived the fire had a strong hold and was burning fiercely. Their efforts to stay its progress were not successful until it had caught on to a house, No. 39, Square Street, at the back of Hollywood Road. This house, together with the one in which the fire originally occurred, was gutted. Nothing but the bare walls was standing when our reporter visited the scene on Jan. 12th. The houses destroyed contained four stories, and it was the residents of the third and fourth floors who perished in the flames. There is no right-of-way between the two houses, hence when the staircase was burnt, the residents on the upper floors were caught in a veritable death trap. The corpses of a woman and two children were dug out from the debris in the Hollywood Road shop, and as the police were informed there were others burnt in the Square Street house, a gang of coolies under the charge of Sergeant Macdonald were sent to search among the ruins. On the afternoon of January 12th the charred body of a woman was unearthed and later, four further corpses, charred beyond recognition, were found huddled together on part of the first floor of the Hollywood Road house which had not collapsed. The premises were insured for \$1,500. Three men have been arrested in connection with the outbreak, so that probably further developments will be chronicled.

When the Police ceased operations last night, the bodies of nine residents had been excavated from the ruins. The search will be continued this morning.

HONGKONG REGATTA.

MANILA TO COMPETE.

The Manila Boat Club has practically accepted Hongkong's offer to compete at the forthcoming Hongkong Regatta—that is, if four men can get away. Answers have not yet been received from Shanghai and Singapore. Inter-port four-oar races will be limited to one crew from each port, as there would be no room for more boats, otherwise heats would have to be rowed off previously.

Quite a number of boats are entering for the Governor's Cup race, including, it is said, the Royal West Kent Regiment, the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company and Cadets.

The rowing course, a mile in length, will be from Kellet's Island to near the Oil Pier.

A Sub-Committee has been chosen—Messrs. F. W. L. Warre, G. A. Caldwell and C. H. Gale—to arrange the crews in the Junior Fours race. Those entitled to enter are oarsmen who are not rowing in the Interport events or cases Governor's Cup.

The *China Mail* has presented a Cup to be sailed for by members of the Corinthian Yacht

Club. This will be an additional event over a course of about seven miles.

It is proposed to hold the sailing races on Monday, the 6th proximo—China New Year falling on the 4th proximo. This, however, has not been definitely settled. The other events will take place on Saturday, the 11th proximo.

THE "CYDONIA" ASHORE.

On Jan. 12 we reported that the *Cydonia* had been seen ashore on the Blenheim Shoal. The *Straits Times* says that this vessel is the British cooler *Cydonia* of North Shields of 1,020 tons. She was bound to the north with coal. The *Cydonia* was seen by the *Benlarig*, *Oakley*, and *Ong Sang*. She is ashore 18 miles North 12 W. magnetic of One Fathom Lighthouse. One steamer is standing by her. The *Cydonia* wishes to be reported to Lloyd's Agents.

The Captain of the B. I. steamer *Zamania* reported that he tried to tow the *Cydonia* off the Blenheim Shoal, but did not succeed. The Captain of the *Cydonia* asked for tugs and lighters to be sent to his assistance.

BEACHCOMBERS IN MANILA.

The American tramp seems to have made his appearance in Manila in rapidly-increasing numbers lately. The news has been spread abroad on the mainland that a paternal Government deported all unfortunates, paying all expenses, and the result has been that stowaways and minor employees on the transports have been in the habit of staying ashore there, knowing that in the last resort they were assured of transportation back to the States.

Judge Liddell yesterday, says the *Cablenews* of January 7th, changed the precedent, and ordered a vagrant who requested transportation to be fined 60 pesos, to be worked out at the rate of fifty cents a day.

The evil has grown to such an extent that eight men yesterday requested transportation to San Francisco on the ground of destitution and inability to get anything to do here.

The chief of police has been notified that all vagrants must be handled according to law and serve time as such.

CHINESE MATRIMONIAL METHODS.

At the instance of Inspector Robertson, five Chinese were charged at the Police Court on the 7th inst. before Mr. Gompertz with assaulting a compatriot named Chung Kung Kin also a Chinese woman named Cheng Fung.

It appears that the husband of the woman laboured under the impression that his wife was not faithful to him. He went to a house at Shaukiwan where several Chinese were gathered to spend the evening, and finding his wife and Chung Kung Kin there, first took the latter up on the hillside, tied him to a tree, and together with the five defendants, brutally beat him with bamboos. The husband then returned to the house, leaving the defendants at their cruel work, and took his wife home. He bound her hand and foot, and tied her up to an iron stanchion, telling her that he would return next day and throw her into the sea. The Police got wind of the affair, and succeeded in arresting the five defendants. The woman's husband is still at large.

HONGKONG.

Mr. M. W. Slade, the well-known barrister here, is, it is reported, having received news of his father's death, leaving for Home in a few days.

During the year 1904 various samples of brandy, gin, whisky and milk were examined in the Colony by Arthur C. Franklin (Government Analyst). All were found to be unadulterated except two samples of milk.

The following inspectors of the Sanitary Board have been appointed Inspectors of Nuisances under the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance of 1896:—G. W. Coysh, J. A. Bullin, H. Pearson, C. E. Frith, C. W. Ward, R. Hudson and R. Fenton.

"Banyan's" suggestion for the repair of the Chamberlain Road, at the Peak, is being acted upon. The contractor is busy preparing material, and it is evident that a thorough job is intended. It is hoped that a percentage of cement will be used for the top dressing, as it not only lasts twice or thrice as long, but it also prevents the road becoming slimy as is the case where lime concrete only is employed.

Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Puisne Judge of Hongkong, is unlikely to be able to resume his duties at the Supreme Court for ten days or even longer. On January 7, while playing cricket, he was badly hit on the leg by a cricket ball. Although hurt, he did not think much about the matter; but on Monday evening, after sitting all day on the Bench, he found his leg badly swollen. He went to the Government Civil Hospital, where he now remains. The wound is not healing as it should.

A very pleasant evening was spent by members of the Union Church Literary Club in the Club room on Jan. 12. The occasion was the new year's social, and opening night of the second half term. An excellent programme, musical and elocutionary, was provided by Miss Harker, Mrs. David Wood, Mr. E. F. Aucott and Mr. W. G. Leckie. The vocalists were accompanied by Mr. George Grimble. After the musical treat, members were regaled with light refreshments.

Among the passengers by the homeward-bound French mail steamer on Jan. 10 was Mr. Owen Ordish, the late superintending civil engineer of the new Admiralty Dock. The "Naval Works Loan Department" ceased to exist at the end of 1904, and the work has been taken over by the Admiralty Works Department. Mr. Ordish had, we believe, been in Hongkong upwards of nine years. Apart from his official duties, Mr. Ordish took an active interest in the local Volunteer force, having been a captain of the artillery section since 1899 until the beginning of the present year, when he resigned in consequence of his impending departure from the Colony. Socially, it may be said of him, that a man of his invariably cheerful and kindly disposition could not fail in so long a period of residence to leave behind him in the Colony many friends to regret his departure and to follow him with their best wishes wherever he may travel.—Mr. J. L. Houston, the resident partner of Messrs. Punchard and Lowther, the Naval Yard Extension contractors, and Mr. G. Corderoy, adviser to the Admiralty, were also passengers, to Singapore.

FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

From a letter which reached us on Jan. 12 from Vladivostok, but bearing a German stamp and the Shanghai postmark, it appears that a letter posted in Hongkong for Vladivostok takes about two months and a half to reach its destination.

Sport & Gossip tells a story of the Shanghai Gun Club, in which the wife of the Chinese caretaker suddenly crossed the line of fire. Members shouted to the shooter to warn him, and the groundsman, flustered by the fuss, was heard to remark "Maskee! That b'long my wife."

Arguing that the besieged in Port Arthur could not be so badly off as reported, Mr. "Dooley" says:—"I raymimber how pained I was over the desperate plight iv th' sojers an' diplomats at Pekin. I rushed an army over there. They kilt Chinymen be th' thousands, an' in th' face iv incredible misstatements fought their way to th' duress iv th' palace where their starvin' brothers were imprisoned. What did they find? They found th' diplomats in their shirt-sleeves fillin' packin' cases with th' undherwear iv th' Chinese Impror an' th' spoons iv th' Chinese Emprress. Th' air was filled with cries iv 'Hinnery, won't ye set on this thrunk? I can't get th' lid down since ye put in that hateful idol.' Th' English Ambassadure was thryin' on a gold brocaded vest four thousand year old, th' Frinch Ambassadure was cratin' up th' Impror's libry, an' th' German Embassy an' gallant officers iv th' Kaiser were in th' obsarvatory prisin' off th' brass fittings iv th' tillyscopes."

The European loafer in Burma, according to the *Rangoon Times*, commonly becomes a Buddhist priest. As such his occupation is light and lucrative. An angry correspondent writing on the subject says:—"Anyone may be accepted as a novice for the Buddhist priesthood, provided he is of good character, is willing to renounce the world, and earnestly and truly seeks the life of the ascetic. But actions speak louder than words, and the actions of some European novices, going round the houses of faithful Buddhists, gathering hundreds of rupees, under the pretence of founding a library, are eloquent of the real motives that inspired them to enter the order. And not content with exploiting the Rangoon Buddhists, they now contemplate a grand tour in Upper Burma, there to repeat their nefarious performance. A healthy stomach and Hibernian bravado seem to be all that are required to make one a comfortable member of the Sangha." "Can this be the comment of a rival missionary?" asks the *Kobe Chronicle*. Very possibly it is, but with regard to religion of more than one kind, many men have found that there is "money in it."

Having indulged in some New Year moralising, and advocating greater effort to make friends with the Chinese, the *Foochow Echo* concludes: "But we do not mean that, going to the other extreme, one should so pet and pamper the unsophisticated Native as to produce the lounging louts who stare, spit, and swagger about our settlement, puffed up with the proverbially dangerous modicum of Christian knowledge, and having exchanged their naturally good manners for no manners at all."

The *N.-C. Daily News*, in reporting the death of Mr. George Fullerton of Shanghai on the 5th inst., says:—Mr. Fullerton, who was Shanghai-born, was some years ago in Messrs Butterfield and Swire's. He went to Hongkong, and resided there for some years, and latterly has been identified with the interests of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Company at Shanghai. He was one of our most enthusiastic oarsmen, though not frequently seen on the river in recent years; and he had served in the volunteers both at Hongkong, where he commanded the Maxims, and at Shanghai.

TRADE ITEMS.

We are officially authorized to state that subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of £1 10s. per share, a bonus of £1 per share, add to the reserve fund \$1,000,000, write off property account \$200,000, and carry forward about \$1,500,000.

Shareholders in the Wo Shun Steamboat Co., Ltd., held a meeting at the offices of the Company, No. 138, Connaught Road, on January 9th. Mr. Wong Kam Fuk presided, and there were also present Mr. Hung Hing Chuen (Manager), Mr. Leung Ching Pao, and others. A special resolution—That the capital of the Company be increased to \$140,000 by the creation of 900 new shares of \$100 each—was confirmed. The following are the returns of the average amount of Bank-notes in circulation and of specie in reserve at Hongkong during the month of December last:—

Banks.	Average.	Specie.
Chartered Bank...	\$ 3,733,882	\$2,400,000
H. K. & S. Bank...	12,520,524	7,000,000
National Bank ...	345,462	150,000
Total ..	\$16,599,868	\$9,550,000

A report from the Japanese Consul at Chinnampo states that the presence of kerosene has been discovered at a village about four miles from Phyongang in Kantong district, Phyongan-do. According to the opinion of some American experts who inspected the above place last year, the locality abounds with kerosene. There are also three large veins of coal in the Samteung district in the same province. Until recent years this coal had been worked by Koreans, who, however, could not make it pay. A mineral water is also obtainable at a spot in Kangso district, in the same province. For some years past the rights had been held by a Japanese, but were lately transferred to a company.

COMMERCIAL.

The Kobe market report, published under the direction of the Hiogo and Osaka General Chamber of Commerce, has this to say of cotton imports at the end of December: Cotton.—*American*.—Since last reporting the home market has declined considerably owing to the crop being larger than anticipated. Cotton ginned up to the middle of this month shows a total of 12,000,000 bales, as compared with 8,500,000 ginned during the same period last year. This has caused a panic in the home market, and the position locally is extremely dull. Spinners are in consequence now rather inclined to await developments. Stock Middling is nominally quoted at Y5, and forward at Y21.50, with lower tendency. *Indian*.—The condition of the American market has caused rates to weaken. No fresh forward business is reported, and the market is much depressed. Old stock is moving slowly at low rates. Quotations for spot cargo stand nominally at Y21.00 to Y21.50 for Akola and Khamguam, and Y22 for new crop F. Bengal. *Chinese*.—Owing to the continued high rate of Silver, no fresh business has been reported for a considerable time past, rates being too high as compared with American and Indian staples. With regard to the alleged dampness in cotton shipments referred to in our report of the 14th October, the Cotton Spinners' Association has decided that suppliers should unconditionally bear the extra loss in weight. This decision will be brought into force on the 1st January, 1905, and the members of the Association have been notified to that effect.

HONGKONG, 1st JANUARY, 1905.—The following is a Review of Exchange, Bar Silver and Bank Rate of Discount, for 1904.

AVERAGE RATES OF T. T. IN HONGKONG (APPROXIMATE).	FOR THE YEAR 1904.			
	HALF YEAR.	QUARTER.	MONTH.	FOR THE YEAR 1904.
	1/10	1/9	1/10	1/10
	1/10	1/9	1/10	1/10
HIGHEST AND LOWEST.	LONDON.			
	BANK RATE OF DISCOUNT.	BAR SILVER.	T.	T.
	4	25 1/2	1/10	1/10
	4	25 1/2	1/10	1/10
HONGKONG.	T.			
	1/10	1/10	1/10	1/10
	1/10	1/10	1/10	1/10
	1/10	1/10	1/10	1/10
MONTHS.	T.			
	1/10	1/10	1/10	1/10
	1/10	1/10	1/10	1/10
	1/10	1/10	1/10	1/10

MEMO:—

Rates { Highest—31st December.
Lowest—9/12th April.
Silver { Highest 31st December.
Lowest—16th April

Average T.T. rate for the year 1903=1/8 1/2
being a rise of about 7 1/2%.

T.T. rate on 31st December, 1903=1/8 1/2
do do do 1904=1/11 1/2
being a rise of about 12 1/2%

Table Showing the Highest and Lowest Prices of Bar Silver in London, Rates of Ex-

change in Hongkong, and Bank of England rates of Discount, for the Years 1877 to 1904.

	BAR SILVER IN LONDON.		EXCHANGE IN HONGKONG.		BANK RATE OF DISCOUNT IN LONDON.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
1877	58 1/2	53 1/2	4/3 1/2	3/9 1/2	5	2
1878	55 1/2	49 1/2	3/11	3/5	6	2
1879	53 1/2	48 1/2	4/1 1/2	3/5 1/2	5	2
1880	52 1/2	51 1/2	4/0 1/2	3/7 1/2	3	2 1/2
1881	53	50 1/2	3/9 1/2	3/7 1/2	5	2 1/2
1882	52 1/2	50	3/9 1/2	3/6 1/2	6	3
1883	51 1/2	50 1/2	3/8 1/2	3/7	5	3
1884	51 1/2	49 1/2	3/8 1/2	3/6 1/2	5	2
1885	50	46 1/2	3/7	3/3 1/2	5	2
1886	47	42	3/4 1/2	2/11 1/2	5	2
1887	47 1/2	43 1/2	3/4 1/2	3/0 1/2	5	2
1888	44 1/2	41 1/2	3/1 1/2	2/11 1/2	5	2
1889	44 1/2	41 1/2	3/2 1/2	2/11 1/2	6	2 1/2
1890	44 1/2	43 1/2	3/10 1/2	3/0 1/2	6	3
1891	48 1/2	43 1/2	3/5	3/ 1/2	5	2 1/2
1892	43 1/2	37 1/2	3/0 1/2	2/8 1/2	3 1/2	2
1893	3 1/2	30 1/2	2/8 1/2	2/2 1/2	5	2 1/2
1894	31 1/2	27 1/2	2/3 1/2	1/11 1/2	3	2
1895	31 1/2	27 1/2	2/2 1/2	1/11 1/2	2	2
1896	31 1/2	29 1/2	2/2 1/2	2/1 1/2	4	2
1897	29 1/2	23 1/2	2/1 1/2	1/9 1/2	4	2
1898	28 1/2	25	1/11 1/2	1/9 1/2	4	2 1/2
1899	29	26 1/2	1/11 1/2	1/10 1/2	6	3
1900	30 1/2	27	2/1 1/2	1/11 1/2	6	3
1901	29 1/2	25	2/1	1/9 1/2	6	3
1902	26	21 1/2	1/10 1/2	1/6 1/2	4	3
1903	28 1/2	21 1/2	1/1 1/2	1/6 1/2	4	2 1/2
1904	28 1/2	24 1/2	1/11 1/2	1/8 1/2	4	3

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their coal report of to-day's date, state that five steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 20,400 tons of Japan coal and 3,000 tons of Hongay. Since 29th December 35,500 tons of Japan coal have arrived, all sold. The market is quiet—Cardiff offering. Quotations:—

Cardiff.....\$18.00 ex-ship.
Australian.....\$11.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump.....\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Miiki Lump.....\$10.00 ex-ship, nominal
Noji Lump.....\$6.50 to 10 00 ex-ship, steady

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee, in his report, dated Hongkong 14th January, says:—The market has steadily declined since last report and each successive sale has been at lower prices. Scarcely any extensive or noteworthy sales have taken place, and although prices apparently show a further decline of \$2 to \$4 per bale, they must still be considered more or less nominal, as holders to effect sales, have to submit entirely to the ideas of buyers. In fact, importers and dealers are both reluctant to commit themselves in view of the uncertain position of the raw material, and the near approach of the China New Year, with its attendant tightness of money amongst the natives, precludes the possibility of any movement of importance taking place in the near future. The market again closes quiet.

Local Manufacture:—No business is reported.

Japanese Yarn:—The ideas of both holders and buyers are too wide apart to lead to business.

Raw Cotton:—New Crop Bengals are more sensitive to the fluctuations on the other side, and despite a further drop of \$1 to \$2 per picul in price, only a parcel of 67 bales really superfine Bengals have found buyers at \$25 to \$24 1/2, leaving a rather heavy stock of 5,700 bales on the market. In China kinds some 135 bales Thoongchow have been reported sold at \$26 to \$25. Stock 700 bales. Quotations are Indian \$22 to \$24 and China.

Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 145 1/2 for T/T and Rs. 146 1/2 for Post. On Shanghai 7 1/2 and on Yokohama \$96 1/2.

The undenoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 30th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—A decline of one to two taels in rate has induced a large speculative business, and sales to the extent of nearly 5,000 bales are reported, No. 10s suffering the most. Estimated unsold stock about 40,000 bales.

Japanese:—good demand keeps up for these spinnings and about 3,000 bales are reported sold on the basis of Tls. 90 to 97 for No. 16s, and Tls. 96

to 102 for No. 20s, prices showing a decline of 3 to 4 taels.

Local:—No business is reported from first hands.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 5th January, 1905, states:—The short working interval since we last wrote has been chiefly notable by the fall of Port Arthur, after an almost unprecedentedly gallant defence. What effect this will have in bringing about a termination of hostilities has yet to be seen. Of course it is hoped here that it will cause the recall of the Baltic Fleet and so prevent what would most likely be a serious interruption to trade, but so long as that Fleet is able to make use of neutral harbours in cases of necessity, it will be difficult to safeguard the trade routes of foreign commerce. However, this is not what is causing the present anxiety and concern of both importers and native operators alike. It is the uncomfortable position brought about by the decline in Cotton and the rise in Exchange. Although the majority are endeavouring to show a bold front a few weak holders are playing havoc with the market, being forced to sell in order to meet the drafts against their goods. In this way business is quite disorganised and the country merchants are naturally holding off in order to secure cheap bargains. On the other hand there appears to be some sort of a concerted movement to support prices at Auction to prove the idea gaining ground in the country that this market is anything but strong. However that may be, the prices realised at the sale show a remarkable recovery for Cotton goods, which we venture to think is not altogether due to an improved demand from Ningpo and River Ports. It is said there really is a slight improvement in Hankow, and certainly one of her buyers was astute enough to pick up a fairly large lot of American Drills at what is considered a give-away price. Measured by the clearances in that direction there does not seem to be any great change for the better. The nearer Yangtze Ports are depressed by the restrictions put on the export of Rice, which has prevented the farmers realising fair prices for what has been an abundant crop, and being able to invest in foreign imports, the consequence is there is a plethora of cereals here and in the neighbourhood, and prices are exceptionally low. As regards Tientsin the market there is fairly active, buyers for Newchwang being in strong evidence for some little time, but, as mentioned last week, the restrictions with regard to re-exporting from the latter port, which the representatives here of Messrs. Fearon, Daniel & Co., the China and Japan Trading Company, Limited, and Messrs. Reiss & Co., were instrumental in getting removed through the Japanese Consul General, are again in force. Holders here would like to take advantage of the more favourable Exchange ruling between this and Tientsin to send further supplies up, but there is a great scarcity of tonnage. From Newchwang itself the News is not at all encouraging. Money is so scarce that trade is paralyzed, and Natives are beginning to make invidious comparisons between the Russian and Japanese occupation, but it could scarcely be expected to be otherwise. To sum up, it looks very improbable that any movement of importance will take place until after China New Year. Meanwhile forward rates of Exchange have suddenly collapsed and added further to the complexity of the situation. Supplies are commencing to pour in and the Native money market is none too easy. A period of anxiety is undoubtedly ahead of all connected with the trade. Advices from the home markets are to the effect that they are quiet but firm with Manufacturers unwilling to try and force sales. Of course there are bound to be some weak elements, but we have not heard of anything being done, or even offering, except for fairly late delivery, at what might be called a substantial reduction. Cotton in Liverpool after declining to 3.74d. for Mid American recovered to 3.83d. according to the last public advice, but we understand from subsequent private telegrams it has gone up to 4d. already. For Egyptian 7 1/2d. was the last quotation. Several telegrams are to hand giving 13,000,000 bales as the estimate of the total crops in the States, which seems to have deceived some of the leading firms in the trade entirely, up to the end of November. The December export of Plain Cottons from Manchester to China and Hongkong was 51,000,000 yards, and 1,000 bales of Yarn. The decline continues in imported Yarns, but Indian Spinnings appear to have about touched bottom and are in more request. Native Cotton is a little staidier at the decline.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Moyune*, sailed on 5th January. For Port Said:—5 cases fans. For Odessa:—25 cases staraniseed, 100 bales chinaroot. For London:—45 boxes tea, 202 bales waste silk, 835 rolls matting, 11 cases cigars, 142 packages shells, 320 casks preserves, 210 casks soy, 10 cases vermilion, 10 cases human hair, 10 cases bristles, 42 packages private effects, &c., 92 bales feathers, 82 bales canes. For London or Glasgow:—50 casks preserves. For London or L'pool or Glasgow:—20 packages preserves. London or Hamburg:—10 cases bristles, 100 bales feathers, 140 bales canes, &c. For Glasgow:—10 cases blackwoodware. For Hamburg:—7 cases shells. London or Continent:—291 bales feathers, 330 bales canes, 20 cases essential oil, 200 bales galangal, 71 cases camphor. Antwerp:—140 bales feathers.

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 13th January, 1905.—The continued tightness of money, and the near approach of China New Year, is still exercising a depressing effect on the general condition of our market, and though a better feeling is perhaps noticeable in regard to some of our best dividend paying stocks, we fear but little material improvement can be looked for until the present financial stringency is relieved.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai under a forced sale have been disposed of at \$700, but close firmer with buyers at \$705. The latest London quotation to hand is £71. 5s. 0d. It is officially notified that subject to audit the directors of the Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming half-yearly meeting, a dividend of £1. 10s. 0d. and bonus of £1. per share, the transfer of \$1,000,000 to reserve, write of property account \$200,000, and carry forward about \$1,500,000. Nationals have again been disposed of at \$38.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue in request at \$690 with no shares available under \$700. China Traders are enquired for in a small way at \$58. North Chinas are procurable at Tls. 96, and Cantons at \$250. Yangtszes are slightly firmer with buyers at \$150.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas have sold and continue in request at \$91. Hongkongs have improved to \$340 with sales and further buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao after dropping to \$26½ have firmed up and close in request at \$27. Indo-Chinas have ruled somewhat erratic, sales down to \$123 cash being reported, but at the close a firmer feeling is apparent, and a fair demand exists for cash shares at \$124 and equivalent rates for June and July delivery. Douglasses have sold at \$33 and \$33½ and more shares are wanted at the latter rate. China and Manilas, and Star Ferries are unchanged and without business. Shell Transports are steadier with buyers at 25/-.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars after receding to \$217 have firmed up, and close with buyers at \$218 cash and equivalent rates for March to August delivery. Luzons are also firmer with buyers at \$17.

MINING.—Raub's have declined to \$34, at which rate shares have changed hands and more are wanted.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have declined to \$117, but close in demand at that rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves continue steady at \$114½ (old ex new) and \$102 (new), with small sales of old cum new at the equivalent rate, viz., \$112. New Amoy Docks have probable sellers at the reduced rate of \$26. Farnham, Boyds are quoted from the North at Tls. 152½ sales and buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have again been disposed of at \$146, and more share are procurable. Kowloon Lands are still in the market at \$38½, and West Points at \$59. Hongkong Hotels have declined to \$142 sellers. Humphreys' Estates have sold at \$12½ and \$12½, and close in further request at the latter rate. Shanghai Lands are unchanged at Tls. 117.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have sold at \$13. We have heard of no local business in the northern stocks in which quotations are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Campbell Moores are easier with sellers at \$40. China Providents have sold, and are still procurable at \$11. Dairy Farms are wanted at \$12. Green Island Cements are easier with sellers at \$29. Watkins are procurable at \$9, and Powells at \$12½. A

demand continues for Electrics (old) at \$15. China Borneos at \$13½. South China Morning Posts at \$22, and Watsons (new) at \$12.

MEMO.—China Mortgage Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 18th instant. Transfer books close to-morrow, the 14th instant until the 18th inst., both days inclusive. Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited, and West Point Building Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meetings on the 30th instant. Transfer books close on the 21st to the 30th inst. inclusive. Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 18th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ \$705 L'don, £71. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$38, sales
B. Shares	£8	\$38, sales
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$690, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$58, buyers
North China	£5	Tls. 96, sellers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$150, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$250, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$91, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H. Canton and M.	£15	\$27, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$124, buyers
China and Manila	\$50	\$23, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33½, sales & buy.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$38, sellers
Shell Transport and	\$5	\$29, sellers
Trading Co.	£1	25/-, buyers
Do. pref. shares	£10	£3. 10/-
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$218, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$17, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raub's	18/10d.	\$3½, sales & buyers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$217, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	{ \$104, old & new \$102, new, buy.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$27, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 155½, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$146, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38½
West Point Building	\$50	\$59, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$142, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12½, buyers
S'hai Land Inv. Co. Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 25, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 30
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$13, sales
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$200	\$109, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5½
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$13½, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Geo. Fenwick & Co.,	\$25	\$45, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$29, sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$5	\$9, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	£10	\$169, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$100	\$265
Hongkong Rope	\$25	\$255, sellers
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$155
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$0	\$20, sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
S. C. Morning Post	\$50	\$50
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$25	\$22, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.,	\$10	\$10, sellers
United Asbestos	\$5	\$7
Do.	\$3	\$4, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$4	\$94
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$180
William Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9, sellers
		\$10, sellers
		\$10, buyers
		\$10, buyers
		\$12½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 13th January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	246
Credits 4 months' sight	249½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	209
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	145½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	145½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	96½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	95½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	117½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	par
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.15
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$54.00
GAR SILVER, per oz.	27½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 13th January.—Freights are weaker all round. From Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul last and it is doubtful whether this rate can be repeated, as there is very little cargo offering; to Philippines, only small carriers wanted, rate being about 30 and 32 cents per picul; to Japan, no demand. The new crop is expected to be ready for shipment about end of February to early March. Java to Hongkong, 25 cents for dry sugar and 30 cents for wet sugar. From Wuhu to Canton, 33 and 34 cents per picul. Coal freights are weak. From Moji to this, \$2; to Manila, \$3.50; to Singapore, \$2.39 per ton.

The following are the settlements:—
Poschan—German steamer, 1,825 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Clara Jensen—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Wuhu to Canton, \$11,500 lump sum.

Quangnam—French steamer, 710 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 34 cents per picul.

Johanne—German steamer, 952 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 32 cents per picul.

Laertes—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Telemachus—British steamer, 1,310 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Taishan—British steamer, 1,122 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Derwent—British steamer, 1,309 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Dr. Hans Jurg Kiaer—Norwegian steamer, 691 tons, monthly, 3 months, at \$6,000 per month.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$7,500 per month.

Dagny—Norwegian steamer, 882 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$6,500 per month.

Proteus—Norwegian steamer, 1,024 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$8,500 per month.

Cognal—Norwegian steamer, 864 tons, monthly, 9 months, at \$6,500 per month (recharter).

Triumph—German steamer, 769 tons, monthly, 6 months, at \$7,000 per month.

Nord—Swedish steamer, 1,452 tons, monthly, 9 months, at £830 per month.

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai):—48/- plus River Freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus River Freight. To New York (Overland):—Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross plus River Freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January—

ARRIVALS.

- 8, *Else*, German str., from Haiphong.
 8, *Oro*, British str., from Liverpool.
 9, *Anghin*, German str., from Bangkok.
 9, *Burma*, Austrian str., from Cardiff.
 9, *J. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 9, *Loongsang*, British str., from Manila.
 9, *Lyseemoon*, German str., from Shanghai.
 9, *Powderham*, British str., from Bangkok.
 9, *Rubi*, British str., from Manila.
 10, *Ajax*, British str., from Liverpool.
 10, *Baltimore*, U.S. cruiser, from Chefoo.
 10, *Choyssang*, British str., from Canton.
 10, *Clara Jabsen*, German str., from Canton.
 10, *Denbighshire*, British str., from London.
 10, *Dragoman*, British str., from Moji.
 10, *Glenroy*, British str., from London.
 10, *Haitan*, British str., from Coast Ports.
 10, *Hunan*, British str., from Chinkiang.
 10, *Kalibia*, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 10, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 10, *Mathilde*, German str., from Haiphong.
 10, *Meefoo*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 10, *Namsang*, British str., from Calcutta.
 10, *Palma*, British str., from London.
 10, *Sperber*, German gunboat, from Pakhoi.
 10, *Swanley*, British str., from Singapore.
 10, *Taiwan*, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, *Tjilatjap*, Dutch str., from Java.
 11, *Andromeda*, British str., from Weihaiwei.
 11, *Deawongse*, German str., from Bangkok.
 11, *Dr. H. J. Kiaer*, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
 11, *Foochow*, British str., from Wuhu.
 11, *Hopsang*, British str., from Samarang.
 11, *Kintuck*, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, *Kwongsang*, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, *Oakley*, British str., from Barry.
 11, *Taksang*, British str., from Canton.
 12, *Ernest Simons*, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
 12, *Frithjof*, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
 12, *Haiching*, British str., from Coast Ports.
 12, *Hailan*, French str., from Pakhoi.
 12, *Kamor*, Norw. str., from Chinkiang.
 12, *Katharine Park*, British str., from Sasebo.
 12, *Malta*, British str., from Shanghai.
 12, *Marie Jabsen*, German str., from Moji.
 12, *Sikh*, British str., from Durban.
 12, *Tartar*, British str., from Vancouver.
 12, *Tientsin*, British str., from Wuhu.
 12, *Tungchow*, British str., from Gutzlaff.

DEPARTURES.

- 9, *Auchenarden*, British str., for K'chinotzu.
 9, *Freja*, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
 9, *Hsiping*, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, *Ilford*, British str., for Kobe.
 9, *Nicomedia*, German str., for Moji.
 9, *Pitsanulok*, German str., for Bangkok.
 9, *Tremont*, American str., for Manila.
 9, *Uda*, Norwegian str., for Yokohama.
 9, *Whampoa*, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, *Ancines*, British barque, for Anjer.
 10, *Benlarig*, British str., for Nagasaki.
 10, *Chowtai*, German str., for Bangkok.
 10, *Diu*, Portuguese gunboat, for Canton.
 10, *Dumbea*, French str., for Europe.
 10, *Hogue*, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 10, *Iphigenia*, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 10, *Kinkiang*, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, *Kwangtah*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 10, *Loongmoon*, German str., for Shanghai.
 10, *Lyseemoon*, German str., for Canton.
 10, *Ocean*, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 10, *Promise*, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 10, *Taiwan*, British str., for Canton.
 10, *Teau*, British str., for Manila.
 10, *Wahora*, British str., for Amoy.
 10, *Woosung*, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, *Australian*, British str., for Port Darwin.
 11, *C. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 11, *Catherine Apear*, British str., for Calcutta.
 11, *Choyssang*, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, *Empress of China*, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 11, *Eiger*, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
 11, *Foochow*, British str., for Canton.
 11, *Kaifong*, British str., for Cebu.
 11, *Meefoo*, Chinese str., for Canton.
 11, *Oro*, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, *Purnea*, British str., for Amoy.
 11, *Signal*, German str., for Haiphong.
 11, *Wosung*, British str., for Canton.
 12, *Ajax*, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, *Darwent*, British str., for Saigon.
 12, *Fooshing*, British str., for Wuhu.
 12, *Haitan*, British str., for Swatow.
 12, *Hunan*, British str., for Canton.

- 12, *Indrasamba*, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, *Kintuck*, British str., for London.
 12, *Kwanglee*, Chinese str., for Canton.
 12, *Kwongsang*, British str., for Canton.
 12, *Oakley*, British str., for Kiautschou.
 12, *Phra Nang*, German str., for Bangkok.
 12, *Taksang*, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, *Wongkoi*, German str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per Korea*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. B. J. Adams, Messrs. V. G. Bowden and C. S. Banks, Mrs. J. R. Banks, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Burkholder, Capt. and Mrs. H. C. Cabell, Master H. Cabell, Miss C. M. Church, Miss C. J. Cretcher, Miss Emma Cretcher, Mr. J. A. Dne, Dr. J. N. Force, Mrs. A. N. Force, Messrs. H. L. Ford, Jose Galoez, L. T. Gibbens, Rev. and Mrs. A. K. Gurney, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Gray, Mrs. S. La Grave, Mrs. H. W. Langheim, Messrs. Barbour Lathrop, N. S. Marshall, M. Morrison, P. R. Manus, D. McGam, A. Le Provost, F. H. Walker, W. D. Wisdom, Miss Pilar Zamo a, Messrs. W. A. Lamont, P. J. Stutchbury, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Levy, Messrs. C. H. Page, G. L. Kingsland, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Ostrander, Messrs. J. H. Brown and A. B. Scott.
Per Seydlitz, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Weyon, Messrs. T. Ogawa and K. Tsuruga; from Kobe, Messrs. G. P. Fuller, V. P. Fuller, Lee D. Windrem, Wm. H. Hunt and B. Bickart; from Nagasaki, Mrs. T. P. Sebre, Messrs. Harry H. Sebre, Tomajiro Vishita, Tatsukida Vishita and Dio; from Shanghai, Messrs. R. Gischer, R. Sutherland, Dutton, A. Krauss, Dr. and Mrs. Bose, Messrs. G. B. Jacob, E. W. Ruyter, Laura Beck, O. Johnson and Moriart.
Per Catherine Apear, from Calcutta, &c., Miss Sellers, Miss Pickard, and Mr. C. H. Rawlings.
Per Hailoong, from Swatow, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Hastings, Mr. Focken, Rev. Father Favre.
Per Zafro, from Manila, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Bauer, Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Brown, Mrs. E. G. Rafael, Rev. J. A. McPirlain, Rev. D. I. Nahoney, Rev. F. A. McCare, Manager E. W. Fowler, Miss E. L. Shaw, Dr. N. G. Heiser, Messrs. H. Purser, B. H. Lyons, A. R. Cottan, H. Darvont and Alonzo Skinner.
Per Borneo, from Sandakan, Mrs. Hamilton and child, Master Hamilton and W. C. Walters, Messrs. Hamilton and Johnston.
Per Tean, from Manila, for Hongkong, Miss E. Griggs, Miss May D. Macdonald, Miss A. Farling, Messrs. A. W. Rankin, John T. Miller, C. G. Webb, Alex. Wilson, F. G. Williams, Henry Bode, and Richard Wilson.
Per Loongsang, from Manila, Mr. W. Palk.
Per Dumbea, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Paris and 4 children and Mr. Younes; from Shanghai, Mr. Wm. Busch, Mrs. Steele, Mr. Ranney, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Messrs. Stein, Page, Meier, Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Mauchan, Messrs. Riva, Mascarello, Kink, Barbey and Doguon; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mrs. Barrow and Mr. R. Perez; for Singapore, from Kobe, Mrs. Sonoyama Hatan, Messrs. Taniguchi, Kawanoko and Tomid; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Wakaki; for Colombo, from Kobe, Mr. Futchally; for Port Said, from Shanghai, Mr. Staritkaia; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mrs. Balet and infant and Mr. Takanosa; from Shanghai, Messrs. Osborne, Priam, Francis Aglen, Thiatam Guiseppe, Thiatam Pietro, Emiliq Viauello, Simon, Mihent, Berthe, Marot, Dorogkin, Sokriakoff, Schleiff, Sordanni, Colin, Allain, Dagom, Franceschi Pilale, Emma and Bardinot.
Per Rubi, from Manila, Rev. J. R. Clouza, Messrs. W. W. Clark, Wm. G. Johnston, Mrs. J. M. Bell, Mrs. E. G. Hones, Mr. C. E. Davis, Mrs. S. G. De Danon and child, Miss Danon, Lieut. H. N. Coates, Mrs. C. N. V. Kerkhoven and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hamilton, and Mr. W. N. Bish.
Per Haitan, from Coast Ports, Mr. & Mrs. Farrow, Mrs. Canger, Miss Campbell, Messrs. Bennett, Colbs, Mackie, Williams, Johnson, Roberts, Edmondstone, Creighton, Anderson, Lannay, Ohtsuka and King.
Per Namsang, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. Davis, Messrs. N. Bi-gel and C. T. Mehta.
Per Swanley, from Singapore, Dr. C. P. Felvus.
Per Palma, from London, &c., Mr. J. Barry.

- Per Kwongsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Messrs. T. Finchett, J. Orange and Rev. Pere Penocley.
Per Haiching, from Amoy, &c., Mr. E. Thomas.
Per Tartar, from Vancouver, Mr. C. S. Moody, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. A. Jordan; from Yokohama, Lieut. J. M. Smith; from Shanghai, Messrs. Y. Kimura, H. Inman, L. L. Santos and J. R. Jensen.
Per Denbighshire, from London, &c., Capt. and Mrs. Marchant and family, Mr. and Mrs. Cowan, Masters Cowan (2), Mr. Glen, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Snowden, Mrs. and Miss Stephens.

- Per Sikh*, from Durban, Mr. Jack Horden.
Per Ernest Simons, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Reiffinger and J. Harrop; from Aden, Mr. and Mrs. Guilherme and infant; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. John World, Messrs. L. C. Starwey and J. H. Scott; from Saigon, Mgr. Merel, Freres Louis and Gabriel, Mr. Arvieu, Mr. and Mrs. Heriaff and 3 children; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. Simon, Bahusen and Bardac Leon, Mrs. Prentice, Miss Laru, Messrs. Poindron, Gachet, C. de Kluiwer, Misses H. and M. Carbonel, Messrs. Devineux and A. Kets, Mrs. de Vineux, Mrs. Huet and 3 children, Messrs. Moriceau and Bigoe; from Colombo, Mr. Rogan and Mrs. Luce Baizer; from Singapore, Messrs. H. Hauburg and E. Kromer; from Saigon, Messrs. Gilard and Muliere, Mr. and Mrs. Guidon Lavalles, Messrs. Le Dret, Annie, Menar, Frankel, and Mrs. Helene; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. Werschurr; for Singapore, Messrs. R. Chobirmal and Bollo.

- Per Malta*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Sequeira and 2 children, Mrs. R. W. Little, Mr. H. G. Mackenzie, Capt. W. R. Boyd, Dr. E. Swindells, Mr. J. Duncan, and Hon. Edwin Conger; for Singapore, Mr. V. Delsizian; for Bombay, Mr. B. J. Shroff; for Marseilles, Mr. C. Noix; for London via Marseilles, Rev. and Mrs. Suttin and infant and Major F. H. Wintle; for London, Rev. and Mrs. Drake and child, Mrs. and Miss Richards, Miss Nora Kische, Mr. John Low, and Capt. J. McKennie; from Kobe, for Marseilles, Mr. A. Priestly, M.P.

DEPARTED.

- Per Bayern*, for Shanghai, Consul Ed. Michaelson, Miss L. E. Shar, Mrs. Knowles, Miss Brunnet, Messrs. H. Mandl, H. Sheppard, Ch. A. Cook, T. Natfay, Bachmann, D. Tese, A. Feller, Bolbrook, Baron von Hadenflycht, Capt. Ronberg, and Mrs. F. Portaria; for Nagasaki, Messrs. J. Inomasee Tanaka, Kosai, Kamori, Harada, Morakawa, and Teanaka; for Kobe, Messrs. Hanada, Muy da, Kow, Makamoto, Sheroha and H. Ilte; for Yokohama, Mr. H. Heiland.

- Per Tremont*, for Manila, Mr. B. R. Swilling, Mrs. Henry M. Jones, Messrs. Milton F. Springer, W. D. Graham, W. A. Lamont, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Brown, Mrs. E. E. Sellers, Mrs. H. F. Ochander, Capt. and Mrs. Cabell and son, Messrs. W. P. and G. P. Fuller, Mr. L. D. Windren, Mrs. E. H. Murray, Messrs. B. Lalthorp, B. MacGavin, T. Howlett, F. E. Shaw, P. B. Danky, Thos. Skinner, Antonio Nier, Mr. and Mrs. R. Manshan, Mr. and Mrs. Shearer, Mrs. S. K. Bard and daughter, Messrs. Springer and W. D. Wright, Misses Jones and Kemr, Mrs. J. H. Evans and child, Mr. Swilling, Mrs. Swilley, and Mr. A. M. Pettit.

- Per Dumbea*, for Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Bolles, Messrs. Nishilla and Ascoli, and Miss Shimogawa; for Singapore, Messrs. J. L. Houston, Walter Hoffmann, Mancaibide, C. F. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Corderoy, Messrs. Gagan and B. Rickert; for Marseilles, Messrs. O. Crish, A. W. Platt, Cren, Peron, Griffon, Laine, Paul Bernard, Jose Joaquim Feijo, Bonamy, Laleons, Martin and Andrien.

- Per Empress of China*, for Vancouver, &c., Col. R. S. Marshall, R.N., Comdr. Vivian, Eng. Lieut. G. H. E. Head, Messrs. A. E. Way, Ed. Palfreman, Mr. and Mrs. R. Dimria, Mrs. C. Thoresen, Mrs. A. Ahn-st, Messrs. E. H. J. Hogg, K. Wibel, C. T. Mehta, R. H. Crofton, S. Swar, J. Harri, John T. Willers, W. W. Clark, K. Kuroki, J. Ishisaka and A. A. Rankin.

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